Stourbridge
CHRONICLE

Thursday, March 8, 2018 | Read by more than 56,000 people | Price when sold 70p

More apprenticeships and vocational choices planned

COLLEGE NOW TO SCRAP A-LEVELS

Report by Richard Guttridge

STOURBRIDGE College is to scrap A-levels as part of a shift towards more vocational courses.

The college says A-levels in core subjects such as maths and English will no longer be offered at the college, after they are phased out over 18 months.

Current A-level students will not be affected by the changes, leaders said.

It marks a huge change in direction for one of the Black Country's major colleges, which normally welcomes hundreds of A-level students leaving school.

Bosses said the college, run by Birmingham Metropolitan College (BMet), would be aiming to 'develop and grow its vocational education offer', as well as expanding its apprenticeship programme.

BMet will be creating a new A-level centre of excellence at Sutton Coldfield College as part of the shake-up.

Gill Coldicott, head of Stourbridge College, said: "During the next 18 months at Stourbridge College we will be withdrawing A-levels and taking the opportunity to focus on our strengths, which are providing students with a wide range of great vocational courses that develop the skills that local and national employers want.

Advice

"We do understand there may be some concerns; the decision to consolidate our A-level offer and to phase-out A-levels at the college has not been taken lightly and was made after consultation with our own staff and students.

"We are doing all we can to provide the support and advice they need."

As part of this an event was held at the college yesterday (Wednesday) and will be again next Wednesday, March 14, at which students can discuss options with the team at the college.

"The decision to focus on vocational courses means we will continue to develop strong and diverse vocational education at the wonderful, revitalised facilities at Stourbridge College," said Ms Coldicott.

"We believe that this will benefit our students and the employers we serve."

JADE'S ENTRANCE WAS JUST OUT OF THIS WORLD

Nineteen-year-old Jade Wootton arrived in Doctor Who's Tardis for a grand entrance at the Miss Black Country final in Brierley Hill

SHE might not have won the contest but Jade Wootton certainly made an entrance at the Miss Black Country final.

Jade, aged 19, rocked up to the event at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill, with a Tardis in tow, helping her stand out from the competition.

Aspiring model Jade, from Sedgley, said the police telephone box, straight out of Doctor Who, definitely attracted attention on the night

Her father Paul bought the Tardis from BBC storage in Lincoln for £300 back in 2013 and it is believed the box was used for filming for episodes of the classic series in the1980s.

Mr Wootton had to replace the windows, roof and rear side to the box, along with a fresh coat of dark blue paint – all at a cost of £450, not bad for a craft that travels through space and time. He said: "I first got it for Jade's prom but I've used it for all sorts of things since. I took it along when my son Jerome got his degree, we've used it for my 50th birthday and my son's 21st too."

Dental nurse Jade saw the crown go to Alexandra Darby, of Dudley, who will represent the Black Country in the Miss England finals.

COURT

Total of five facing charges after death

TWO more men face court after being charged as part of an investigation into the death of a man found stabbed in a Dudley flat.

The body of Jaskaran Kang, 24, from Handsworth, was found at a flat on Stourbridge Road, on January 6.

Joshua Campbell, 18, from King Edmond Street, Dudley, has been charged with murder and conspiracy to commit robbery. Tyrone Johnson, 21, of Malthouse Drive, Dudley, has been charged with conspiracy to commit robbery.

Five people have now been charged in connection with Mr Kang's death.

POLICE

Stab victim found on steps of hotel

A MAN was left seriously injured on the steps of a Dudley hotel after being stabbed in broad daylight.

The 24-year-old was taken to hospital after being attacked outside The Village Hotel in Dudley. Police were called to the scene at around 11.30am on Sunday.

The victim suffered life-changing injuries in the incident off Birmingham Road but he is expected to survive, said police.

It is the latest in a spate of knife attacks in the Black Country, which included a 20-year-old man being attacked at nearby Castle Gate last month.

EVENT

Summerfest pop line-up announced

R&B star Lemar, plus The X Factor's Matt Terry and duo Reggie 'n' Bollie have been announced for Summerfest at Himley Hall, a concert in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice. The event, hosted by Signal 107, is to take place on July 15. See marystevenshopsice.co.uk or call (01384) 377778.

● Music festival – see page 19

INSIDE

IS THIS THE FACE OF POOR BELLA?

PAGE 9

Wombourne Windows™
ORANGERIES AND CONSERVATORIES
After 36 years of trading, there really is no one else in the frame
www.wombourne-windows.co.uk
See our full page advertisement on page 10
Morlock House, Bridgnorth Road, Wombourne, South Staffs WV5 0AL Telephone: 0800 085 8518 Opening Hours: Monday-Thursday 10am-6pm, Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 10am-4pm, Sunday 10am - 2pm

CONTENTS

PETER RHODES	6
LETTERS	7
THE TICKET	23
BRAIN GYM	29
PROPERTY	31
MOTORING	32-34
LOCAL SPECIALISTS	35-36
SPORT	39-40

CONTACT US

EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205
E-mail: dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

ADVERTISING: Sue Jones
Tel: 01384 399901
E-mail: sue.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

PROPERTY: Colin Bailey
Tel: 01902 313131 ext 3731
E-mail: colin.bailey@expressandstar.co.uk

MOTORING: Liz Barratt
Tel: 01384 353244
E-mail: liz.barratt@expressandstar.co.uk

CLASSIFIED:
Tel: 01902 317878
E-mail: my-classified@expressandstar.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

Stourbridge CHRONICLE
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES
Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm
www.yourchronicle.com

Death driver fails to get sentence cut

Dangerous driver James Mills

A 23-year-old motorist whose dangerous driving left a pensioner dead has failed to convince top judges to cut his jail term.

James Mills, aged 23, of School Road, Brierley Hill, was jailed for five years and four months at Wolverhampton Crown Court last June.

He admitted causing the death of Vijaya Mistry, 74, by dangerous driving, Mr Justice Green told London's Appeal Court. Mills was behind the wheel of his Ford Focus, which he had modified to increase its power, on February 3 last year.

He was driving on the 40mph A4036 Pedmore Road, Brierley Hill, when he hit a Ford Mondeo being driven by the victim's husband.

The car went into a spin and front seat passenger Mrs Mistry, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was thrown from the car.

Mills had been racing against a Citroen for 1,000 to 1,500 metres before the collision, said the judge. He had been overtaking and undertaking other cars and his average speed was estimated at 73mph.

He accepted that he had 'been an idiot' and that he and the other driver had been 'playing around'. Lawyers for Mills argued that his jail term was far too tough and should be reduced. They pointed to his relative youth, no previous convictions, prompt confession and remorse.

But Mr Justice Green ruled last week that there was nothing manifestly excessive or wrong in principle about Mills' punishment. Sitting with two other judges, he concluded: "We refuse this application for permission to appeal."

● Stop the Speeders – page 4

Killer husband's fatal overdose in prison cell

A MAN who murdered his wife with a hammer in Netherton was found dead in his prison cell after overdosing on medication prescribed for a shoulder injury, a report has revealed.

Paul Abbott, 57,was handed a life sentence in July 2016 after he admitted to killing his wife Jackie, 54.

The attack in December 2015 saw Abbott strike his wife of 28 years, Jackie, at least 16 times with a hammer at their home in Lodge Crescent.

Paul Abbott – suicide

The killer was found dead at HMP Long Lartin in Worcestershire exactly a year on from the attack.

His death sparked an independent investigation by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) – which concluded: "We consider that it would have been difficult for staff at Long Lartin to have foreseen or prevented his death."

The investigation found Abbott overdosed on the anti-inflammatory medication Naproxen which he was initially prescribed for a shoulder injury. He died after complications.

The PPO report stated: "There was little indication at Long Lartin that Mr Abbott was at a raised risk of suicide or self-harm in the days before his death, and it would have been difficult for staff to have reasonably predicted his actions. Although Mr Abbott gave away a number of his belongings the night before he was found dead in his cell, staff were unaware of this, prisoners thought it was an act of generosity."

Staff attempted CPR but were not able to save him. A jury at Worcestershire Coroner's Court in February concluded his death was suicide.

Charity's year target met in a month

Eileen Fielding and Geoff Hill, who donated £1,000 to Dudley Council for Voluntary Service, promote a fashion show

A HUGE donation has helped a charity meet its fundraising goal for the year – in February

Geoff Hill, who runs his own charitable trust, surprised staff at Dudley Council for Voluntary Service when he visited to present them a cheque for £1,000 to pay for a panto trip for children next festive season. Eileen Fielding of Dudley CVS said: "He's our longest serving supporter. Geoff just strolled in and gave us a cheque for £1,000. He's such a lovely man."

He made the donation after spotting a poster advertising a fashion show to raise funds for Operation Santa, a charitable project run by Dudley CVS across Dudley. He has donated more than £250,000 through his trust. Geoff was awarded an MBE in 2004 in recognition of his charity work.

The fashion show is being held at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on May 10 and tickets are £5. Call (01384) 573381.

Concern at rise in crime – violence and car theft up

VEHICLE thefts in Dudley have increased more than a quarter in a year, while crime across the borough is up 13.6 per cent.

Dudley has seen recorded crime rise from 18,219 in 2016 to 20,700 last year. There have also been big increases in stolen vehicles, theft from vehicles and violent crime.

Halesowen Councillor David Vickers, who served as a police officer for 28 years, believes the true crime figures could even be worse.

"What I'm concerned about is the number of crimes not recorded which means the situation could be worse," he said. "But looking at the figures now, yes the force is facing a challenging time with a cut in officers, which inevitably leads to an increase in crime."

The figures show in Dudley the rate of theft of vehicles has gone up 38.6 per cent, theft from vehicles 18.2 per cent and violent crime 18.3 per cent. Robbery has gone up 6.3 per cent. However, burglary has gone down 3.4 per cent.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "It is very concerning that crime is rising across the country and in the West Midlands too.That is why I am continuing to drive efficiencies, reduce bureaucracy to enable police to focus on what the public want them to – tackling crime."

Have a say over travellers' site

A CONSULTATION has been launched asking for the views of residents living nearby to a planned travellers' site in Coseley.

Dudley Council has submitted a planning application for the transit site to be built on Budden Road, after bosses approved proposals last month. Now residents living nearby are being given the chance to have their say, with the consultation running until March 24.

Council leader Patrick Harley said: "We want to put a stop to unauthorised camps. We believe that the Budden Road land is best placed to accommodate a temporary travellers transit site." To take part search for reference 'P18/0281' on the planning section of the council website, or write to Place Directorate, 4 Ednam Road, Dudley, DY1 1HL.

Care apartments OK

AN extra care development featuring 90 apartments designed for elderly people has been given the go-ahead in Rowley Regis.

The facility will be built on a 9,000 sq m site at Moor Lane, after it was backed by Sandwell Council planners.

Able & Bromley Carpets / Beds
Family Run Est since 1978
SOFAS, VINYLS LAMINATES, STAIRLIFTS
FREE delievery - disposal and set up on beds and suites
WE DO WHAT OTHER CARPET FIRMS WON'T.
Help move heavy furniture, up lift plus take away old carpets, Plus Shave doors
DISABLED? OAP? CAN'T GET OUT?
or anyone who just needs extra help!
Can't come to us, we'll come to YOU
We will bring 100s of carpet samples sofa and bed brochures to your door
Double divan bed, free headboard, 2 free drawers Was £699 Now £399
Heavy Domestic Saxonys from £7.50 sq yd was £14.99
3 Seater Sofa Only £399
Divan beds and mattresses from only £72.00
Carpets from only £3.50 sq yd
UP TO 50% OFF PLUS FREE FITTING (on selected carpets T&C's apply)
100's of rolls and end of rolls in store at knockdown prices WE WILL BEAT YOUR BIG SUPERSTORE
Click on-line for many great prices - Check out our video and 5 star reviews on www.ablecarpets.co.uk
Free quotes and Planning
Warehouse Unit, D Dormston Trading Est., Burton Road, Gornal DY1 3TD
OPEN: MON-SAT 9.30-5.00 SUNDAY 10AM-3PM
FREEPHONE 0800 0853747
WE COVER ALL AREAS
Quarry Bank · Lye · Wollescote · Kinver · Stourbridge · Pedmore · Brierley Hill · Wordsley
Adrian Bromley 01902 880541
Find us on Google Maps

Luxe Tan & Beauty
Luxe TAN & BEAUTY
OBAGI MEDICAL
Modern Luxurious Salon
Offering High Quality Treatments
Open Night Friday
2nd March 7.00pm - 9.30pm
Everyone welcome, bring your family and friends
Drinks and nibbles, goodie bags. Meet and greet our team
Skincare Experts, Anti Wrinkle Injections, Dermal Fillers FREE Consultations
LVL Lashes, HD Brows, Gelish Manicures, Pedicures
OFFER £45.00 for a month
Unlimited Tanning (15 mins session max)
Sunfit Colla Tan XXL
The only sunbeds in the area that have tan and collagen tube in one
56A South Road, Norton, Stourbridge DY8 3YB
01384 671760

Footworks Chiropody
Keeping you one step ahead...
. Ingrown Toe Nails Treated
. Toe Nail Cutting and Trimming
. Diabetic Foot Care
. General Foot Care
. Callus Reduction
HCPC Registered & Foot Healthcare Practitioners
Home Visits Available
01384 413444
201 - 203 Halesowen Road, Old Hill, B64 6HE

Council give £200k loan to kickstart new institute

COUNCIL bosses have agreed to step in and provide £200,000 for a new music college which has been threatened by funding issues.

The £31 million music institute is expected to open three years later than planned at The Waterfront in Brierley Hill in 2020.

Dudley Council was approached to provide a £200,000 loan as a fall back option 'should alternative funding currently being investigated not materialise'.

The institute, to become the Black Country's music college, was originally due to open in September 2017 but chiefs said its opening date has been pushed back amid funding issues.

Brierley Hill councillor Zafar Islam said: "I hope the music institute will benefit not only Brierley Hill but the whole of the borough."

The college's backers are still seeking funding for the 'Resonance' project at The Waterfront, expected to create at least 43 jobs, with council bosses asked to stump up a £200,000 'bridging loan' by next January 'should alternative funding currently being investigated not materialise'.

David Barnard, co-director of Resonance, said: "There has been a very detailed due diligence process in terms of the funding but stars are beginning to align.

"We see Resonance launching in two phases. The first is the community phase and this will include staff recruitment activities in the community. The second phase will be the student intake and that is planned for 2020."

Cuts will affect 'vulnerable kids'

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has criticised the Department of Education over plans to cut funding for young people who have speech, language and communication difficulties.

The contract for Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) at the Communication Trust is set to be cut this year despite Government support for over a decade.

The Labour MP is calling for the decision to be reviewed.

SLCN is one of the most common childhood disabilities – affecting an estimated one in ten youngsters.

Mr Austin said: "I've always said we need to make education and skills our number one priority to give youngsters a first class start in life.

"This decision by the Government could affect some of the most vulnerable kids in the Black Country. "

King Ed's college bid to run town hall

An event at Stoubridge Town Hall

KING Edward VI College has launched a bid to run Stourbridge Town Hall and has held 'advanced talks' with Dudley Council.

The sixth form college, established in Stourbridge in 1552, wants to use the site for community events and also as extra space for some of its activities.

College principal Remley Mann said: "This is good news for the town and good news for the college. Our plans are to preserve the current usage of the town hall providing an invaluable public building for the use of the community, as well as giving the college extra space for some of our activities.

"The college has played a key role in the community for over 500 years, so we are honoured to be guardians of this important building to secure its future as a focal point for the local community."

Under proposals, Dudley Council will make the hall, opened in 1887, available under community asset transfer powers – enabling councils to transfer council-owned buildings to not-for-profit entities.

It would become the latest initiate of its kind in the borough, after charity Dudley CVS took over the running of Brierley Hill Civic Hall. The charity was given the green light in November to continue running the venue following a successful 18-month trial. It meant savings of £100,000 a year.

Councillor Ian Kettle, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "Stourbridge Town Hall is already a successful and popular venue and we believe, under the management of the college, it will continue to be enjoyed for generations to come."

£10k target for bike rider paralysed in fall

A CAMPAIGN to support a young mountain biker from Brierley Hill who was paralysed after falling from his bike has raised almost £10,000 in less than a week.

Peter Lloyd, aged 21, broke his neck in August last year and has been left paralysed from the neck down.

Peter, who is a student at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, was a talented rider who had previously won podium places in a number of races.

Shattered

The crash happened on the last 100 metres of a trail ride as he shattered a vertebra landing on his head. He then spent seven weeks in intensive care in Edinburgh before being transferred to the National Spinal Injuries Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Glasgow.

Peter Lloyd now

Now the mountain bike community has rallied behind a campaign to help Peter, raising £9,425 in less than a week.

Peter said: "I'm paralysed from the neck down now and use my chin to control my wheelchair. I still plan to live as well as my condition allows, along with my incredibly strong and supportive fiance.

"I'm so thankful that I didn't suffer a head injury, so am still the same person I have always been."

Fellow mountain biker, Ben Mills, launched the appeal on crowd funding page JustGiving to support Peter's recovery and rehabilitation.

Peter hopes to use the money for physiotherapy in America, as well as an adapted wheelchair.

He added: "Thank you so much to everybody for their very kind donations. In the future, I hope to use the funds to travel to America for intensive physiotherapy, along with any future clinical trials which might improve my condition.

"My other plans are to get a chin-controlled off-road wheelchair to allow me to go riding with friends – even if it is rather different to how it was before and to buy an accessible van so that I can get around and also return to university to complete my degree in mechanical engineering."

Peter Lloyd in action on his bike before the accident last August left him paralysed below the neck

Ben said: "Pete is going to need as much support, both emotionally and financially, as possible as he adapts to the changes he has been dealt and goes through rehabilitation."

He added: "Please dig deep whether you are a friend, fellow racer or part of the mountain biking community."

To support the appeal go to www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/petelloyd-downnotout

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fire treated as arson, say police

A BLAZE that badly damaged a flat in Brierley Hill's High Street is being treated as arson, say police.

Crews from Brierley Hill and Stourbridge responded to a call shortly after 1am on Saturday to the unoccupied flat in a three-storey block.

Two neighbours had left the building by the time firefighters entered the property, using two hose-reel jets to extinguish a burning mattress.

Officers from West Midlands Police were called to assist with the suspected arson attack. No injuries were reported.

Fire crews left the scene shortly before 3am.

Record half-term figures at the zoo

DUDLEY Zoo enjoyed a record February half-term attendance.

The tourist attraction on Castle Hill saw 15,612 visitors go through the gates – more than double the number last February half-term when 6,528 made a visit.

Zoo director Derek Grove said: "This has been the best February half-term I can remember, it's been incredible. Some of our daily figures during the week were comparable to a good day in August, which is amazing.

"People definitely made the most of the dry weather."

Cocaine criminals hit in the wallet

CROOKS convicted in a multi-million pound cocaine racket, which involved drug dealers in Kingswinford and London-based Albanian gangsters, have been ordered to pay back more than £147,000.

Eight of the 14 criminals, who were last year jailed for a total of more than 100 years, have been forced to hand back some of the cash gathered from their criminal enterprise.

Much of the illegal activity happened within a half mile radius of Stallings Lane, Kingswinford, near the homes of some gang members.

MP gets debate on HMRC tax office axe

CONTROVERSIAL plans to close HMRC offices at Brierley Hill were due to be debated in Parliament this week.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has urged Work and Pensions Secretary Esther McVey to rethink proposals that put the jobs at risk of 250 civil servants at the HMRC's tax credits office at the Waterfront. He secured a Parliamentary debate on the issue for last night (Wednesday).

COUNTY NEWS

City firm ranked in workplace top 10

WOLVERHAMPTON-BASED Charter Court Financial Services has been ranked as one of the top 10 employers for the third year in a row in the Sunday Times 100 Best Companies to Work For list.

Charter Court, based at Broadlands, has grown since its launch in 2008 to employ more than 500 people.

Scores and ratings across a wide range of factors including leadership and fairness are based on the views of employees, and each year the questionnaires are revised and updated to reflect current concerns across UK workplaces to provide a detailed picture of working at a particular firm.

Unhappy staff fuel job queries boost

APPLICATION rates for office professional posts soared by 83.7 per cent across Birmingham in January according to independent jobs website CV-Library.

Lee Biggins, founder of CV-Library, said: "Candidates are storming the job market like never before. As such, it's important that businesses in Birmingham are offering the full package."

The survey of 1,200 workers revealed half (50.3 per cent) of professionals in Birmingham are unhappy in their current roles. This job dissatisfaction could be one of the driving factors behind the hike in application rates.

Interim principal starts at college

A COLLEGE has appointed a new interim principal.

Wolverhampton College has appointed Malcolm Cowgill after the departure of Claire Boliver, who has left the college after five years to become principal and chief executive at South Staffordshire College.

Her replacement in Wolverhampton Mr Cowgill is a teacher with 25 years' experience in the further education sector in East Anglia and the East Midlands.

Fewer drivers are caught using phones

THE number of drivers issued with fixed penalty notices for using a hand held mobile phone at the wheel has dropped by more than 40 per cent since penalties doubled.

A Freedom of Information request revealed the number of FPNs issued for the offence fell from 87,051 in 2016 to 51,787 last year. Studies carried out by the AA suggest that the drop is due to road safety campaigns and the doubling of the fine and points.

Black Country victims inspire campaign

WALSALL North MP Eddie Hughes has called for a new charge to be created – 'failing to stop following a fatal or serious injury crash' – after this was raised road safety charity Brake.

He said it was needed because 'at present, British law acts as an incentive for the worst law-breaking drivers to flee a crash if they kill someone'.

Mr Hughes called on the Government to 'listen to the thousands of people who have already backed the campaign by the Express & Star and listen to the call of Brake to create a new offence'.

"Let's work together to ensure that fewer families have to grieve the loss of loved ones – let's stop the speeders."

Among those killed by dangerous drivers were Georgie Evans, a former pupil of Kinver High School, who died when her car was hit by an Audi A6 driven by Kuba Oles. He was speeding along Priory Road in Dudley when it happened, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. The 24-year-old, of Beaconview Road in West Bromwich, was later jailed for six years after he pleaded guilty to causing death by dangerous driving.

Student Rebecca McManus, 21, was waiting at a bus stop when Sukvinder Mannan, who was racing at 101mph, hit and killed her. The crash in Hagley Road West in Bearwood saw 34-year-old Mannan, from Halesowen, being jailed for eight years after admitting causing death by dangerous driving.

A petition can be signed at www.change.org/p/theresa-may-mp-killer-drivers-should-have-stiffer-sentences website. More than 2,00 have already signed.

Minister says tougher sentences on the way

Report by David Cosgrove

A GOVERNMENT minister has hailed the Express & Star's Stop the Speeders campaign in Parliament – and promised tougher sentences for killer drivers will be brought in.

Rory Stewart made the vow during a debate sparked by Walsall North MP Eddie Hughes' who was backed the campaign by The Chronicle's sister newspaper urging the Government to bring in tougher penalties for killer drivers.

The MoJ wants to extend the maximum penalty for death by dangerous driving from 14 years in prison to a life sentence.

Mr Stewart confirmed the Government is 'working to find a time in the legislative agenda' to bring in life sentences for killer drivers.

He said: "I would like to pay tribute to the honourable member for Walsall North for bringing this debate to the House and also to the Express & Star and local Labour councillor Doug James who have done an enormous amount of work on this issue.

"We as a Government have committed to increasing the penalty for death by dangerous driving to a life sentence.

Agenda

"We are now working to find a time in the legislative agenda to bring that in – this needs to happen because families at the moment feel that the system is not just."

During the 30-minute debate in Westminster Hall, Mr Hughes hailed the Stop the Speeders campaign and said: "The time has come for change and the Government must now make time available to implement this change."

The campaign follows several tragic incidents in the Black Country (see panel above).

Walsall North MP Eddie Hughes wants a new charge created as part of tougher sentencing on speeders

Georgie Evans died when her car was hit by a speeder

Student Rebecca McManus was killed at a bus stop

Designing skills could bag school a £500 win

ARE you a primary school in the Black Country or Staffordshire? Then your artistic talents are needed.

After 15 successful years our sister daily the Express & Star has again launched its popular Design an Ad competition. Register now and your school could win £500.

Every school taking part will be teamed up with a local business who advertises in the Express & Star and pupils will be tasked with creating an original advertisement for their designated company. Each company will pick its favourite design, which will then feature in an eight-page colour supplement in the paper.

Vote

From this shortlist, readers will vote for their favourite, and every pupil whose design is featured in the supplement will be invited to a special presentation ceremony at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre where they will be given a certificate and meet the other winners and their sponsors.

Every participating school will receive a £50 achievement award, plus the chance to win £500 if their advert is judged the winner. Last year almost 1,000 children from across the region put crayon to paper and created some superb designs

Places are limited and time is running out so register now. The deadline is Saturday (10). For details call 01902 319439. To register go to https://www.expressandstar.com/news/education/2018/02/13/design-an-ad-register-your-school-for-the-chance-to-win-500/

Apprentice fair is hosted by MP

AN MP will be holding a fair to coincide with National Apprenticeship Week.

Stourbridge MP Margot James will host the Apprenticeship Fair alongside Stourbridge Jobcentre tomorrow (Friday) at the Glasshouse College in Stourbridge. This event will coincide with National Apprenticeship Week, which takes place from March 5 to 9.

This event is part of Margot's Aspirations programme, which gives local young people the chance to participate in a series of workshops and networking fairs, designed to help them to realise and fulfil their potential.

The event will take place from 5pm to 6:30pm at Glasshouse College.

Attendees will be able to network with a number of businesses and organisations.

High Street, Brierley Hill
HOME OF THE KARNDEAN CLOCK
CARPET FACTORY OUTLETS

SALE PRICES
ON ALL CARPETS
Karndean Designflooring
DEDICATED SHOWROOM
New Displays, Huge Choice, Helpful Staff
01384 263149

QUALITY KITCHEN FACELIFTS
A fresh approach to a new kitchen
why replace when you can reface?

- Trusted reputation
- Made to measure custom-built doors and units
- Door swaps to full kitchens - tailored to your needs

Call Now For a Free Estimate
01384 467594
dy@dreamdoors.co.uk
www.dreamdoors.co.uk
26 Lower High Street, Stourbridge, DY8 1TA

DREAM DOORS®
NEW LIFE FOR OLD KITCHENS
Proud members of Checkatrade.com

Chicago's has closed down six months after death

A NIGHTCLUB where a footballer was stabbed to death has closed with bosses blaming 'a campaign against the club'.

Ryan Passey died after being stabbed at Chicago's in Stourbridge in August. Kobe Murray, aged 19, was found not guilty of murdering Mr Passey after a trial.

Bosses at the venue said it was shutting down with immediate effect. More than 3,500 people had signed a petition calling for the club to close for good.

Mr Murray, of The Broadway, Dudley, denied murdering 24-year-old Mr Passey and was cleared of murder and manslaughter by a jury at Birmingham Crown Court.

Peter Marks, chief executive of Deltic's, which runs Chicago's, confirmed 18 full and part-time jobs would be lost due to the closure of the club, which opened in 2012.

He said: "We are not the heartless business we have been portrayed to be." He said everyone who worked at Chicago's was devastated by Mr Passey's death.

He added: "Chicago's never had a chance to defend itself due to the legal case. Until that tragic night, the club had an unblemished licensing record of providing a fun and safe night out for the people in Stourbridge. Putting the blame on a single venue is not the answer."

MPs in support for Childline boost

THREE Black Country MPs are supporting a campaign for improving children's mental health services.

Conservatives Eddie Hughes (Walsall North) and Mike Wood (Dudley South) plus Labour MP Eleanor Smith (Wolverhampton South West) attended the NSPCC's 'Are You There?' Parliamentary reception.

The charity is calling for more funding for Childline, the phone hotline that offers support to children.

At the event, Childline founder Dame Esther Rantzen told MPs that children often use the service as a means of early mental health support.

She revealed that the service had delivered 101,454 counselling sessions on mental and emotional health issues in the last year alone.

US football plea

PLAYERS are needed for American football club Black Country Vipers in Stourbridge. Youngsters aged 13 to 19 who would like to play can contact blackcountryvipers@outlook.com, or visit blackcountryvipers.com

Sex attacker jailed for assault in park

A SEX offender whose attack on a terrified runner was foiled by passing cyclists has been jailed for three years.

Shane Codd chased his victim as she jogged in Sandwell Valley Park, knocking her to the ground, pulling her hair and putting his hand inside her clothing, a court heard.

She was so traumatised by the assault that she has since left her home town of West Bromwich to live in a different area, Mr Simon Foster, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The judge commended the actions of three cyclists who came to the woman's rescue and helped to detain 51-year-old Codd.

Mr Foster added: "She doesn't know what would have happened to her if they hadn't heard her screams."

The woman jogged past Codd on June 18 and smiled at him as he stepped aside to let her by. Seconds later she heard an 'Oy!' and turned to see that he was exposing himself. He made a lewd suggestion. She ran on, hoping he was 'just a flasher', as she later told police, but felt unnerved.

The next minute she heard footsteps behind her and was flung on the ground by Codd, who grabbed her arm and pulled her hair. She told police: "He looked like he had pure hatred in his eyes."

Her assailant tried to pull her into bushes but she screamed and kicked out as Codd began a sexual assault. She broke free but he caught her again.

The five-minute assault only ended when her screams were heard by the cyclists, who sped to her aid.

Codd claimed he had run after the woman to ask her for a date and that she had punched him.

Mr Chris O'Gorman, defending, told the court that Codd had learning difficulties, had suffered 'what amounted to a breakdown' following his mother's death and was coping with depression. He said Codd had taken the runner's smile as 'an invitation'.

Codd, of City Road, Tividale, pleaded guilty to exposure and sexual assault. Judge Dean Kershaw jailing him for three years and the defendant was also put on the sex offenders list indefinitely.

Brrrr... borough battles through the big freeze

THE Beast from the East and Storm Emma threw everything they had at us.

But by Monday the big thaw had started and now hopefully we can put the snow shovels back in the shed as we look forward to more typical early spring weather.

Schools were closed on Friday and there was widespread disruption to the transport system. Major attractions, including Dudley Zoo and the Black Country Living Museum, had to close during the worst of the weather.

Wolves' clash with Reading at Molineux and Villa's home meeting with QPR will now be rearranged after both were called off in the interests of public safety.

Staff and volunteers worked through the night in a bid to save the game at Molineux, which was scheduled to be broadcast live on Sky Sports.

Villa's home game with QPR has been rearranged for March 13 after heavy snowfall on Friday night. It is the first time a Villa home game has been called off due to weather conditions since December 2000. Villa made a positive from the postponement by donating more than 700 packed lunches to homeless charities.

Concerts

Meanwhile, there was controversy at the Genting Arena when the Stereophonics concert went ahead on Thursday night but Paul Weller's concert was called off at short notice on Friday and then Elbow's gig went ahead on Saturday.

Some theatre shows were cancelled, though comedian Dara O'Briain was able to perform all but one of this three shows at Birmingham Hippodrome and Hairspray went ahead at Wolverhampton Grand.

Severn Trent Water said staff were working round the clock to deal with the aftermath of the big freeze as frozen pipes thawed and leaked.

During the cold spell volunteers did their bit for NHS staff by ploughing through blistering winds to drive them to work. Hospital bosses praised the efforts of 4x4 drivers who responded to appeals to help get essential medical staff to work.

Images featured here include buses stuck going up a hill on Lake Street in Gornal on Saturday. Meanwhile, ice that had frozen over in the canal tunnels resembled stalactites.

Buses struggle to get up a slippery hill in Gornal – public transport was hard hit by the heavy snow

Trudging through the snow in Dudley town centre

Icicles in Coseley canal tunnel Picture: Wayne Butler

NEWS IN BRIEF

Building society to take old tenners

DUDLEY Building Society will continue to accept old £10 notes over the coming weeks. Legal tender status for the paper £10 notes ended on March 1. New polymer £10 note has been in circulation since September.

The society, with branches in Brierley Hill, Lower Gornal, Kingswinford, Perton and Dudley town centre, is encouraging everyone to check behind their sofas and in their piggy banks for any old notes. The society will continue to accept them from people whether they are a member of the society or not. The society's Raj Bains said: "The deadline seems to have crept up on a number of people."

Bid to demolish club withdrawn

PLANS to demolish a former Royal British Legion social club on Kinver High Street to make way for apartments have been withdrawn.

The move has been welcomed by district councillor Lin Hingley, who said she and the parish council had been opposed.

A developer wanted to knock down the building and replace it with a new residential apartment block.

Councillor Hingley said: "I welcome that the application has been withdrawn. I opposed this and I know the Parish Council did."

Barber shop fined over TV licence

A BARBER shop owner who was caught without a TV licence has been ordered to pay almost £700.

Licensing officers called at Beau Barbers in Ivyhouse Lane, Bilston, after detecting the television set inside the business premises was on but owner Harry Atwell did not have a licence. Magistrates fined Atwell £440 in his absence and ordered him to pay £240 costs and surcharge.

Mark Whitehouse, TV Licensing spokesman, said: "We appreciate these are tough times but the majority do pay the licence fee."

Last of the Chairmen headlines soul concert

KEN Knox, the only surviving member of American 1970s soul group Chairmen of the Board, is performing at Dudley Town Hall on April 28. He will be supported by The Signatures.

The Dudley concert is part of a six-date tour of the UK. Knox will be performing Chairmen of The Board hits including Give Me Just A Little More Time. Tickets for the Dudley gig cost £18.50. See www.boroughhalls.co.uk website.

ADVERTISEMENT

Has Your Double Glazing Steamed Up?

Established for over a decade Cloudy2Clear windows have become a leading company for glass replacement. Issues with double glazing can often be gradual and may only be noticed during a clear sunny day or during the winter. A failed glass unit may no longer provide you with the protection you need or be energy efficient. Why not spend a few minutes checking your home to see if you have any failed double glazing?
If you act now you can avoid these problems.

Now, you may think you need to replace the whole window including the frames and all the hardware, however Cloudy2Clear have come up with a simple and cost saving solution… Just replace the glass!!

If you see condensation in your windows just visit our website or give us a call on **0800 61 21 118**. We will send out our highly experienced engineers for a free no obligation quote. **A Cloudy2Clear quote takes on average no longer than 20 minutes**. Once the quote is completed, we will sit down with you and explain the problem and tell you how we can fix it. With years of experience Cloudy2Clear have a wealth of knowledge and are recognised as a Which Trusted Trader, **plus our work is backed by an industry leading 25 year guarantee**. Cloudy2Clear also replace faulty locks handles and hinges on all windows and doors.

Your friendly local Cloudy2Clear specialist is Brian Stanley and he services Stourbridge & the surrounding areas.

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118**.

Cloudy2Clear Windows... Service With A Smile!
Cloudy2Clear Are A... Which? Trusted Trader
All Glazing Backed By Our 25 YEAR GUARANTEE
Priority Freephone 0800 61 21 118
www.cloudy2clear.com
Broken Or Damaged Windows? Faulty Locks, Handles, Hinges?

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Low marks for school that drops grading

A SCHOOL in London has decided that giving pupils tangible marks or grades for their work is too stressful, and can affect their mental health.

Instead, teachers at Putney High School will just give general comments about the standard of work. Headmistress Suzie Longstaff says: "Mental health and pupil wellbeing have to be central to everything we do."

Now mental health is a very serious issue, and one which is only belatedly starting to be given the recognition it deserves by the NHS. But I can't help but think that daft ideas such as this trivialise the subject, equating the real suffering of people with serious problems to kids feeling a bit upset by their school report.

It echoes the outcry from teachers when schools minister Nick Gibb recently suggested more tests for young children would be good for their long-term wellbeing. Not an easy argument, but doesn't he have a point? If kids are drilled in exam technique by the ages of seven or eight, surely it should be second nature by the time they reach their O-levels and A-levels? Perhaps what the teachers meant was preparing more kids for exams was not good for their own wellbeing.

Back at Putney High, staff say replacing tangible marks with comments will stop youngsters from competing with each other, and take away "bragging rights". From my memories of school, youngsters who bragged about exam marks got a very swift education in etiquette, but that's another matter.

The problem is, though that the real world is extremely competitive and at times brutal. If schools teach kids not to compete and not to fret about their exams, they are setting them up for a real shock when they leave school.

Because when they find themselves working for a living they will probably find their employers also engage in a bit of comment-based feedback. But probably not the type they will like to hear.

❒ ❒ ❒

THAT said, I think if I were at school today I would be feeling extremely stressed about World Book Day. Now getting youngsters into reading is an excellent idea, and anything that makes that more fun – particularly for hard-to-reach pupils – is to be supported wholeheartedly.

The problem is, what grown-ups consider fun is not necessarily what children do. And I'm not convinced that ordering kids to dress up as story-book characters is enjoyable. In fact, I can't help but think that for the average schoolkid there can be few things more humiliating than dressing as Charlie Bucket.

Cosying up to these six nations is really not for us

Diane Abbott – plenty of time to reflect on less ethical migration policies

Emma Chambers – when she suddenly found herself famous, it scared her

Captain Blackadder – as TV fans will know, Mboto Gorge was 'his battle'

Do we really want to go the way of EU?

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

POETRY among the isobars. I loved one weather forecaster's turn of phrase on a chilly morning this week as the Beast from the East arrived: "A pestering of snow showers." Dylan Thomas would have been proud of that.

WHILE we Brits have been pretending to know the difference between "a customs union" and "the customs union," the European Union has been busy on the other side of the continent, cosying up to six nations which hope to join the Union by 2025. They are: Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo. This wild, unstable and religiously riven region used to be called the Powder Keg of Europe. As I have said right from the start of this Brexit business, it is not enough to look at where the UK is going. We should also be looking very carefully at where the European Union is going and ask, do we really want to go that way?

ONE obvious way to halt the sexual objectifying of women in drama is to get more female actors, directors and producers in the system. Or so you might think. In the Beeb's new thriller, Collateral, the star character is a woman, so are two executive producers, and above all so is the director, S J Clarkson. And yet the second episode included a gratuitous nude scene which added nothing to the plot and told us little about the character. It looked like nothing more than a skin-flick moment, designed to attract slavering male viewers. This was not feminism's proudest hour.

I HAD lunch with Emma Chambers back in 1995 just as fame found her. It was a BBC season launch in Birmingham. She had attended the same event the year before and no-one spoke to her or even recognised her. And then at the end of 1994 came the Vicar of Dibley and Alice Tinker became the nation's favourite dimwit. "I hate my face," she told me. "I was convinced I didn't look right at auditions . . . sometimes you do wish you're Kate Moss." When she suddenly found herself famous, it scared her. "I began to start having little panic attacks and finding myself hiding behind the Ambrosia tins in Waitrose. People would point and look. One lady came over and asked if I really was as stupid as I was in Dibley. I told her of course I was." Emma Chambers, who has died terribly early at 53, was delightful company and one of the most modest actors I've ever met.

MORE whimsy in Endeavour (ITV). After last week's episode mentioned the Crossroads Motel, this week's made a passing reference to Mboto Gorge, one of the battle honours of the fictitious South Oxfordshire Light Infantry. As Blackadder fans will know, Mboto Gorge was the battle in which Captain Blackadder's troops, armed with rifles and machine guns, massacred a tribe of pygmies armed with fruit.

MASSACRES are always good for gun sales. After every atrocity in the States, local people buy guns to protect themselves. Following the Florida school shootings, there's an even bigger bonanza for the firearms industry. Donald Trump's government is considering issuing guns to selected school teachers. That's another one million guns to be purchased. And if anyone thinks arming teachers is a good idea, let me relate the tale of an old soldier called Jim who did National Service in Cyprus and found himself caught up in a chase between military police and a wanted terrorist. An MP shoved a revolver into Jim's hands with the instructions: "If he comes out of that door, shoot him." Jim told me that within a few seconds he was so shaky, nauseous and sweaty-handed that he could barely hold the gun, let alone aim it. There is only one place where heroic loners kill the bad guy. The movies.

OUT for a brisk walk in the Beast from the East, I couldn't help noticing that not a single family group we encountered was using mobile phones. Instead, muffled against the Siberian blast, folk were chatting – just like families used to do. All the dazzling technology of tablets and smartphones is no use if you're wearing big thick mittens.

DIANE Abbott, a great believer in free movement of people, says her party will produce 'immigration policies that meet the test of being firmly located in Labour's values'. This is good news. But then Ms Abbott has had plenty of time to reflect on less ethical migration policies. Back in the 1970s she famously spent a romantic holiday with her boyfriend Jeremy Corbyn in communist East Germany. Why they chose that particular hell-hole (sorry, 'workers' paradise') for a tryst is anyone's guess but she will have seen first-hand a regime where border controls were based on fences and landmines and where anyone trying to flee was shot to death. Freedom of movement, comrades? Only if you can outrun the guard dogs.

TALKING POINT

Those two words that can speak volumes

Just two short words seem to be tripping up so many of us these days. Eight letters which could, as Diana Ross informed us, make this world a better place.

Thank you. That's all it takes. Thank you.

How many times have you held a door open or stepped aside to let someone past, only to be thanked with a muted grunt, nod or even nothing at all?

Yet it takes very little effort to simply thank someone for even the tiniest of gestures.

And it's not just a matter of face-to-face gratitude. When was the last time you wrote to express your appreciation of the service you have experienced in a restaurant, at a sporting event or while on holiday?

I know someone who goes to a summer music festival every year and afterwards without fail writes to the promoter to say how much they have enjoyed the entertainment, much of it performed for free.

Invariably the promoter replies to say that my friend's letter is the first non-business correspondence they have received that year and how much it means to the festival team and the musicians themselves.

Furthermore, some of the most heartfelt letters sent to newspapers are those, often handwritten, from people who have been in hospital and wish to thank the medical staff for their exemplary treatment.

So why do we find it so difficult to come out with those two simple words, particularly in this era of emails and social media?

Perhaps it's because after only a few years of the internet, we take far too much for granted, and instead find it far too easy to complain about, well, just about anything.

But going back to that door-holding scenario, I often imagine an exchange that would ensue if I was not thanked. It goes something like this:

Me - "You're welcome".

Other person - "I beg your pardon?".

Me - "Oh, I'm sorry, I thought you said 'Thank you'."

Other person - "I haven't got a clue what you're talking about".

Me - "Not to worry, have a good day".

Other person - "Weirdo!".

I ask you, is it worth it? Probably not but if we all kept those two short words to hand, maybe the world might be a less fraught place.

Will you give it a go? Thank you.

STEVE PARLETT

SHEET MATERIALS AND D.I.Y SPECIALISTS
• Rough Sawn & Planed Timber • MDF Skirting
• Architrave • Cladding • Stair Parts
• Tongue & Groove • Chip Board • Plaster Board
BEST PRICES CALL FOR A FREE QUOTATION 01384 78857
SPECIAL OFFERS
Post crete £4.99
Oil based creosote £10 | Sleepers £16
6x5 larch lap panels (mint) £17
Bird tables £35
Wooden planters from £10
Trellis, wishing wells, decking, fence paint
Logs and kindling cheap prices
Robins Timber COMPANY
Established 80 years *Trade and public welcome
Every Kind of Timber for every Kind of Job
Canalside Ind Estate, Wedgbury Way, Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill, DY5 3JZ
New website: www.robinstimber.com
Open: 7.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri 8.30am-12.30pm Sat

Garden Supplies Direct
Great Spring Offer!
6 bags £27.00
FREE DELIVERY
Levington Organic Blend Farmyard Manure 50 litre
Our 2018 Catalogue is Full of Offers
Call or Email For Your FREE Copy
FREE Delivery To Your Door!
Call Paul on 01562 741820
or mobile 07704 346506
gardensuppliesdirect@blueyonder.co.uk
www.paulsgardensupplies.co.uk

Timber Tim LIMITED
Professional Tree Services
★ Crown reduction/Lifts ★
★ Felling ★ Stump grinding ★
★ 24 hour emergency call out ★
★ Free quotations ★ Fully insured ★
★ NPTC Qualified ★
Local authority approved contractor
All work carried out to BS3998
www.timbertim.com
Enquiries@timbertim.com
07970 618998
BRIERLEY HILL

Beat the crooks – put your car in a garage

UPSETTING to read of people having their cars stolen off their drives and vehicle crime rising by 32 per cent in the last year.

When a car is stolen there is the initial inconvenience followed by the shock of finding out that it is regarded as a 'fault claim' by insurance companies, so putting up your premium.

Then if the car is on a finance agreement the amount paid out may be less than you owe leaving you with no car but having to pay a lump sum unless you have GAP insurance. Even if your car is recovered it will most likely be damaged and most people will change it as soon as possible because it never feels the same. So what can you do?

To me an obvious thing is to use a garage. If yours has been turned into an extra room fair enough but is it simply full of stuff?

Now might be the time to think about trying to get the second most expensive item you own put away, maybe invest in another shed or even a small extension if it is used as a utility room.

When I have suggested this before people often claim their car will not fit in a modern garage.

We have always used a garage and, of our neighbours who use theirs – one has a BMW Z4 and another a Jaguar XE, so that rather proves it can be done.

So have a good think. Is it not worth the effort to shift a few hundred pounds worth of stuff to put your pride and joy where it should live? It could even reduce your insurance premium.

RON GWILLIAMS
Brierley Hill

'Snowflake' politicians are told to toughen up

POLITICS is a rough game.

Unfortunately it would seem some of our local politicians aren't tough enough for it.

First, Stourbridge Tory MP Margot James gets very upset and emotional on Question Time when called a liar for trying to claim the Government is increasing spending on the NHS.

Now local Labour leader Peter Lowe wants to censure Ukip's Bill Etheridge for calling the Dudley Labour Group 'Socialist do-gooder bleeding heart Communist rat bags'.

The accuracy of these matters aside, shouldn't our politicians be a little less 'snowflake' when being called names?

NICK BAKER
Amblecote

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice:
Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at www.ipso.co.uk. If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Pity for those who are not so fortunate

I have just read a letter from Stephen Fellows of Sedgley regarding homelessness in Dudley. He writes: 'Is it not time that the council and police get tough on the homeless people taking over our doorways and move them on from our poor unrecognisable town.' I was reading this whilst the snow continued to fall relentlessly and the temperature plunged to minus 10 degrees. I just have say to you, Stephen Fellows, that I hope you can live with your conscience. Maybe re-think your attitude and show a little care, respect and pity on those not so fortunate as yourself.

BRIAN WILLIAMS
Halesowen

Grateful for Chronicle delivery

WHAT an unexpected surprise to receive my weekly edition of The Chronicle this week considering the extremely adverse weather we have all experienced over the past week or so.

I never expected it to arrive, so grateful appreciation to the delivery person who must have struggled in the snow and ice to ensure we received our regular weekly copy.

PETER LORD
Pedmore

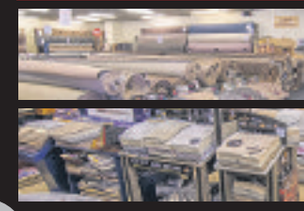
Still waiting

COUNCILLOR Patrick Harley, of Dudley Council, said recently that 'contractors have been urged to make some progress in demolishing Cavendish House'. Hasn't Councillor Harley said the same thing several times and nothing has been done.

PETER COLE
Kingswinford

ONE OF THE LARGEST STOCKISTS OF CARPET IN THE COUNTRY
Over 200 Part Rolls
ALL LESS 50%
At STD we have the best fitters and we are NEVER undercut on price

SALE NOW ON



	Was sq yd	Now sq yd
Apollo	£9.95	£7.95
Majesty bleach cleanable	£13.95	£9.95
Sensations Heathers	£16.95	£12.95
Waterproof bathroom carpet	£18.95	£8.36
Contract wilton	£18.95	£8.95

Plus many more great offers

OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK
9.00 to 5.30;
Sunday 10.30 to 4.00;
Closed Wednesdays

10% OFF
All end rolls with this voucher

Open 6 days a week 9.00 to 5.30
Sunday 10.30 to 4.00 Closed Wednesdays
Church Street, Brierley Hill DY5 3PT
TELEPHONE:
01384 76448
www.stdcarpets.com

STD carpets

BRIERLEY HILL
CHURCH ST A459 BRETTELL LANE
◄ K'FORD S'BRIDGE ►

CONTEMPORARY & ELEGANT
Bi-fold doors
Fitted Aluminium or uPVC
From £1800 fitted

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TODAY

Full Range of the Latest Composite Doors

From £550 fitted

ENTERPRISE GLASS & GLAZING Ltd
of Brierley Hill

Enterprise Glass and Glazing Ltd are based in the Brierley Hill area of the West Midlands and since the early 1980's have built a reputation as a leading installer of quality windows, conservatories and doors direct to the public.

MISTED UNITS?
Replacements,
Glass cut to size...
Telephone today
Free Quotation
01384 571217

Design & Service You Can Trust!

Find us at: Vine Street, Brierley Hill DY5 1JE Telephone: 01384 571217 and talk to us today
Fax: 01384 571427 Email: sales@enterpriseglazing.co.uk www.enterpriseglazing.co.uk

SEASONAL SAVINGS

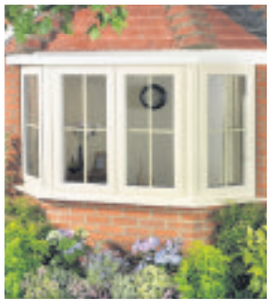
Call us now

- Top Quality A Rated Products At Great Prices
- Yale Locking Systems
- Swish Window & Door Systems
- Payment On Completion
- Full 10 Year Guarantee
- No Deposit Required

Make the right choice for your new windows, conservatories, orangeries and porches.

Carera do not use high pressure salesmen, it has had the same owner since it opened in 1989. Call them now for your **FREE** no obligation quotations. Our visit takes approximately 20-30 minutes

Visit our large beautiful showroom with all products on display for a warm welcome



Proud to have worked with

DIY SOS the big build

WINDOWS · DOORS · PORCHES · ORANGERIES · CONSERVATORIES

CARERA WINDOWS LTD
The Recommended Company

24, Junction Rd, Audnam, Stourbridge DY8 4YJ

Telephone: **01384 442 490**

www.carerawindows.co.uk

Yale

FENSA Registered Company

Secured by Design

Is this the face of poor Bella of the Wych Elm?

WHO Put Bella in the Wych Elm? There has been a major development in one of the region's most famous and macabre murder mysteries.

Now the face of the victim can be seen for the first time after it was digitally recreated by a team from Liverpool John Moore's University.

Led by Professor Caroline Wilkinson, a specialist in the craniofacial depiction of people from the past, the team has created a picture of how 'Bella' might have looked before her mysterious death and the finding of her skeletal remains in the hollow of a tree near Hagley.

Her face from the 1940s has been digitally created using pictures of the skull of the victim, which was found by children in the woods during the war years.

Ritual

Speculation has ranged from her being a murdered prostitute, to a German spy or even the victim of a Satanic ritual.

The picture is in a new book by Halesowen author Pete Merrill and his teenaged son Alex called 'Who Put Bella In The Wych Elm?: Volume 1: The Crime Scene Revisited' available via Amazon.

The title comes from the enigmatic graffiti that began appearing across the area, most famously on the Wychbury Obelisk near Hagley, when police were unable to make progress with identifying the victim or finding the killer, or killers.

The Merrills hired Prof Wilkinson and her team after they recreated the image of King Richard III from bones discovered under a Leicester car park.

Bella? Picture: Pete Merrill / APS Books

Famous graffiti on Wychbury Obelisk

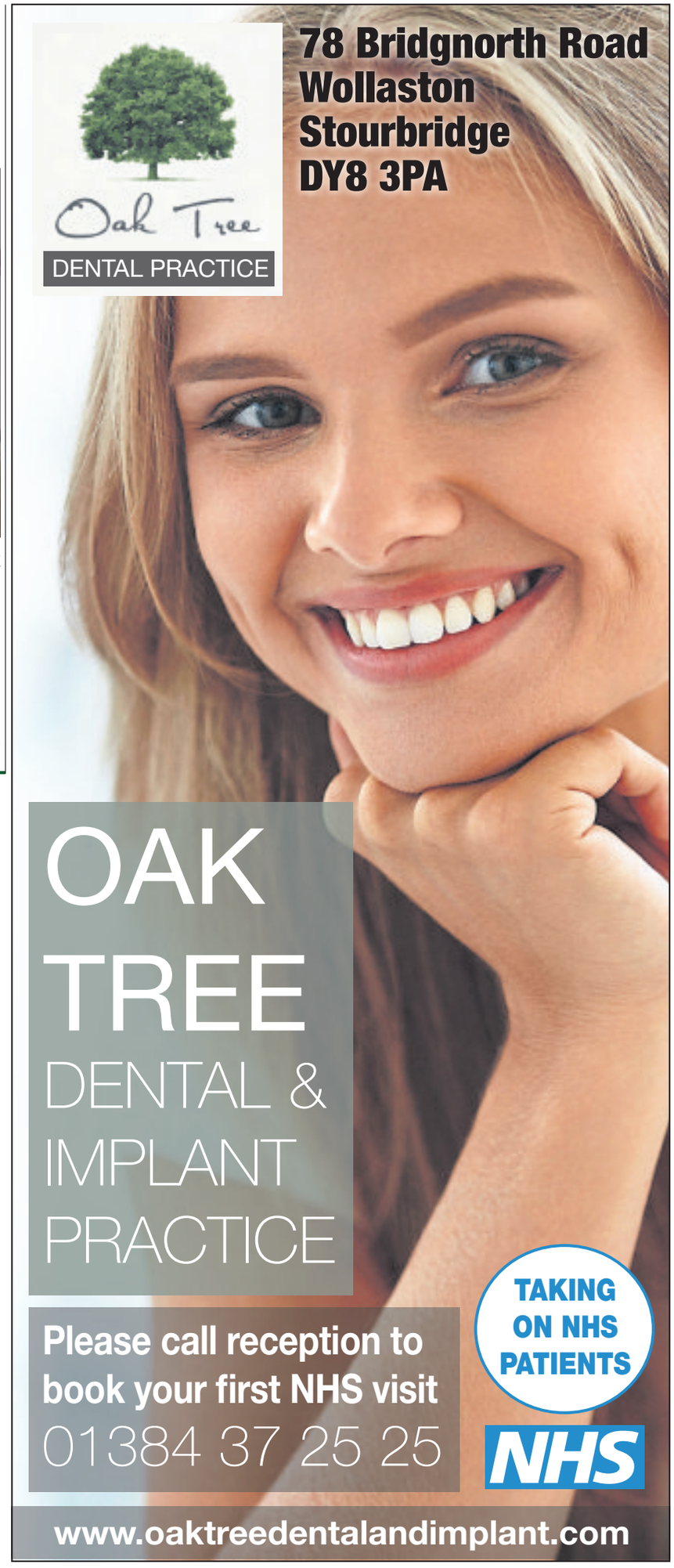
Railway museum rethink

ARCHITECTS planning an extension to a popular railway museum are having to go back to the drawing boards.

A £1.5 million extension is being planned for Kidderminster Railway Museum which is currently based in a former Great Western Railway warehouse at the Severn Valley Railway.

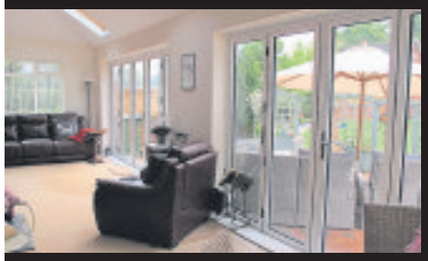
Plans had been drawn up for a new building to be sited on land adjacent to the existing building and for a bridge to link the two properties. Now museum bosses have been offered a decorative Victorian cast iron lattice railway bridge from a station at Marple in Cheshire which they hope to incorporate in the design.

However, it is 34 feet long and, because initial plans were for a 10 to 15 foot long bridge to link the two buildings, plans for the extension and link are having to be redrawn.



After 36 Years of Trading, there really is no one else in the Frame

WE WILL BEAT ANY LIKE FOR LIKE QUOTATION*
(T & C's apply)



We are a professional, family run, local company installing quality windows, doors, conservatories and orangeries.
We pride ourselves on our high quality standards and that we can offer
all our customers total satisfaction on whatever you need.

Wombourne Windows™

ORANGERIES AND CONSERVATORIES

For more information call us now on

Freephone 0800 085 8518

or visit our website at www.wombourne-windows.co.uk

Morlock House, Bridgnorth Road, Wombourne, South Staffs WV5 0AL

Showroom Opening Hours Monday - Thursday 10am - 6pm, Friday 10am - 5pm, Saturday 10am - 4pm, Sunday 10am - 2pm

**Authorised and regulated by the financial conduct authority. We are a credit broker not a lender. We offer credit facillities from one lender.

FENSA No 1670 · storm · HomePro · BRIDGNORTH ROAD B4176 · WOMBOURNE WINDOWS SHOWROOM · HEATHMILL RD · SAINSBURYS

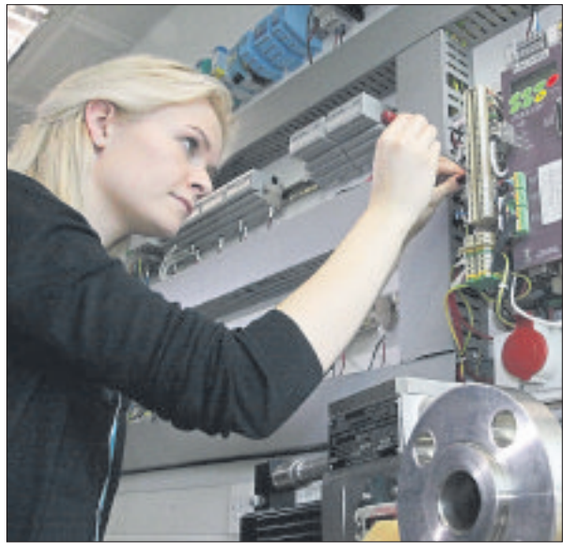
Engineer Emma flies the flag for apprenticeships

AS National Apprenticeship Week hits its stride, the organisers are hoping thousands of youngsters will following in the footsteps of engineers like Emma Goulding, from Stourbridge.

Emma is now a controls engineer for Siemens, the £5.5 billion global business developing electric aircraft and building a new train factory in Yorkshire.

After leaving school with three A-Levels, Emma was unsure about the university route. But she was keen to pursue a learning path that would expose her to opportunities in industry and she saw the advanced engineering apprenticeship at Siemens as the ideal course for her.

Emma said: "I'd always been interested in how and why things work but doing an apprenticeship in engineering has allowed me to broaden my horizons and experience the best of both worlds – learning first-hand the skills needed to work in the industry, alongside formal academic study."



An apprenticeship with Siemens has seen Emma Goulding become an engineer

Sponsored

She continued: "I'm now in a full-time role and being sponsored to study for a mechanical engineering (BEng) degree – but best of all I get paid to do something I really enjoy!"

Meanwhile, in Stafford, waterways emergency breakdown firm River Canal Rescue was named last year as a Top 100 Apprenticeship Employer.

Apprentices account for nearly 60 per cent of its 33-strong workforce.

Managing director Stephanie Horton said: "To have our three-year apprenticeship programme recognised and rewarded at a national level is a huge achievement for us. Without apprentices our business would never have been able to grow the way it has. We're very proud to be on the list."

Sue Husband, who is director of the National Apprenticeship Service, said: "It's great to see the fantastic work that employers across the West Midlands are doing to promote apprenticeships to local people in the area.

"Now in its 11th year, this national week brings together everyone passionate about apprenticeships to encourage more people to choose apprenticeships as a fast-track to a great career and to business growth."

She added: "It is an excellent opportunity to showcase how apprenticeships work for individuals, businesses, local communities and the wider economy."

HagleyKitchens
Beautiful Kitchens, Bathrooms and Bedrooms, designed with imagination and fitted with care

"A really handsome Kitchen...
...beautiful Bosch appliances and a super 'Boiling-water Tap' completed on time without any problems at all" Pauline Burgess, Droitwich

"Hagley Kitchens took care of everything in our fantastically designed modern kitchen... ...Graham and his team made everything simple." Pam & Steve Hughes, Rowley Regis

"Graham gave us our perfect kitchen, a great local company." Danni & Martin Walters, Hasbury

"Hagley Kitchens created the kitchen we have always dreamed of, and his team completed the installation and tiling to a perfect finish... Thank You." Wayne & Julie, Wordsley

"Nothing was too much trouble" Doreen Coley - Hayley Green

Call Graham Edmonds for your 'FREE', no obligation new Hagley Kitchen's design
07776 207596

Black Country Made
over 40 Years of Happy Customers

Guaranteed unbeatable on price
www.HagleyKitchens.co.uk

INSTALLATION • TILING • GAS • ELECTRIC • PLUMBING • BUILDING

Make the RIGHT decision this Spring and give RYDALE a ring...

RYDALE UNIQUE LIFETIME GUARANTEE

RYDALE SPRING SALE

Valeting Services now available to restore all your uPVC products.
Guttering and Driveways valeting available.

Windows, Doors, Conservatories, Orangeries, Porches, Fascias and Soffit Boards

Order a conservatory or full house of windows and you will get a full valeting service on your guttering or windows or conservatory totally FREE.

No deposits or stage payments, you only pay when the installation has been completed

Visit one of the largest conservatory and window shrowrooms in the UK

Supplied & Fitted... across the Midlands

Repair Service Available

CELEBRATING Our 33rd ANNIVERSARY 2018

Guardian Warm Roof

Replace the existing roof on your conservatory and create a comfortable environment and a room you can use all year round

Every window and conservatory is custom made to the most rigorous quality standards you will find in the industry. No other company in the area has more experience and know how than Rydale, and that's why we have been in business for more than 30 years.

ULTIMATE SECURITY GUARANTEE
Rydale take security very seriously Guaranteed high security on ALL products
Full details on request

MASSIVE DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE ON MARCH INSTALLATIONS

FREEPHONE 0800 917 6060 www.rydalewindows.co.uk Long Lane, Blackheath, Halesowen B62 9LS
Open Weekdays: 9am to 5.30pm
Saturday: 9am to 4pm Sunday Closed

Small Appliances • Large Appliances • Catering Equipment • Hair Care • Spares

Graded Product Specialists

Swan Retro
designed for life

Available in
BLACK BLUE CREAM GREEN GREY LIME ORANGE PINK RED

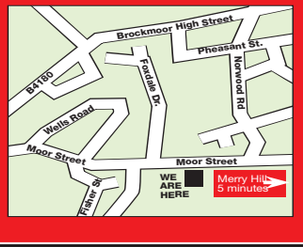
THOUSANDS OF PRODUCTS ONLINE

USE DISCOUNT CODE "FREEPOST" TO RECEIVE FREE STANDARD DELIVERY

Kettle and Toaster Man
TRADE WAREHOUSE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Unit 2C, Albion Works, Moor St., Brierley Hill, West Midlands DY5 3SZ
Tel: 01384 483 286
Est. Over 20 Years * OPEN: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm, Sat 8am-12pm

We specialise in finding you the best deals available on daily basis. We stock electrical and other amazing retail products at up to 90% off the normal retail selling price.

SH



Valid until 18.03.18

Region's new £7m air ambulance takes off

Critical care paramedics Fay Pollock, of Sutton Coldfield, and Kerry Hemus, of Wolverhampton, at the unveiling

A NEW upgraded £7 million air ambulance helicopter for the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity has been launched.

Registered with the call sign 'G-RMAA', the Airbus helicopter was officially unveiled last week by the charity's chairman, Brendan Connor, with ambassadors actor John Challis, Paralympic equestrian Sir Lee Pearson CBE and rugby player Neil Back MBE at the RAF Cosford Museum.

The larger H145 air ambulance helicopter will undertake an average of three missions every day.

It will provide a number of benefits to patient care within the Midlands – as well as travelling greater distances without the need for refuelling and will enable the aircrew to respond even faster due to increased speed capability.

The larger interior means additional aircrew can be flown to major incident scenes, and further medical equipment can be carried on board to treat more complex emergencies.

Only Fools and Horses star John Challis said: "For me, it is a great privilege to help unveil this new helicopter. I have been collecting for the charity at my shows and people are so generous – they have really taken the charity to their hearts. They are very brave and dedicated people at the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity."

Lee Pearson CBE, 11-times Paralympic games gold medallist having represented British para-equestrianism, said: "A lot sport accidents take place in the middle of nowhere – equestrian riders have used the service this charity provide, myself included. This new piece of kit will help by saving many lives."

Former England Rugby star Neil Back MBE said: "What this helicopter will provide is speed and time – and that is crucial for the difference between life and death."

I'm desperate for a NEW BATHROOM
I've tried lots of other reputable companies but their prices are too high! CAN YOU HELP?
YES!! WE CAN HELP YOU

EXAMPLE FULL JOB FOR £3950
90x90 Quadrant Cubicle with low level tray
15 SQM Wall Tiles
Tiled Floor
Replacement Shower
New Basin & WC
EXTRA DISCOUNT FOR OUR RETIRED & DISABLED CUSTOMERS

DISABLED SPECIAL
Are you having problems getting in and out of your bath? We will remove the bath and fit an easy access low level round, square or oblong cubicle and tile inside, supply a new replacement shower, a folding seat and grab rail
ALL FOR ONLY £2150

"Our company is owned and run by local tradesmen meaning the work is carried out properly and on time.
We strive to keep our prices as low as possible in order to keep within the budget of retired, disabled and working families which make up 95% of our customers."

We do the lot in 5 days

MARCH & APRIL FITTING DATES NOW BEING RESERVED

Extra discount for our retired & disabled customers
We offer a free no obligation home visit and on the spot price within 48 hrs of your call

YOUR CHOICE BATHROOMS
YOUR CHOICE...FOR A BETTER BATHROOM
Unit 4, Charterfield Shopping Centre, Charterfield Drive, Kingswinford DY6 7SH
01384 287222
Showroom also at
39 Lichfield Road, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton WV11 1TW 01902 861908
www.yourchoice-bathrooms.co.uk
VAT FREE in Qualifying Cases Daytimes & weekend visits a pleasure
SHOWROOMS OPEN 9am-5pm 6 Days a Week

Wear Glasses?
SAVE UP TO 70% OFF
Complete Glasses from £19.99
Varifocals from £45 upgrade
THE SPECTACLE STORE
DUDLEY 01384 252903
SMETHWICK 0121 558 1621
BRIERLEY HILL 01384 484446

Art works on show at glass cone

ARTISTS from the Kingswinford area are among around 30 creative people with work on show at an annual exhibition.

The Brierley Hill Society of Artists has returned to the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley with its showcase, which runs until March 18.

It features watercolours, silk prints, oils, pastels, textiles, acrylics and lino prints including landscapes, portraits, still life and drawings. There are nearly 120 framed prints on display, plus 95 unframed prints and a total of 27 artists are represented.

All work is for sale with pieces available from £15 upwards.

There is also a small children's exhibition and the group hopes that this will grow as younger members join the group.

LCP backing the DK 10k

PROPERTY group London and Cambridge Properties (LCP), based in Kingswinford, is again sponsoring the Dudley Kingswinford 10km road race.

This year's DK 10k event, sponsored by LCP, is the 40th and will be on May 2. The race was started in 1986. It is organised by Dudley Kingswinford Running Club, starts and finishes at Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club's Heathbrook ground.

FOCUS ON KINGSWINFORD & WALL HEATH AREA

Work to start on £65m retail park and homes

A £65 million development to 'inject life into a disused site' will create 150 jobs, business bosses have said.

Dudley Council has given the go-ahead for the scheme in Kingswinford on the former Ibstock Brick site. Chiefs have now confirmed the proposals will include a retail park with shops and a pub-restaurant, as well as 200 homes.

Plans for the 80,000 sq ft of retail and leisure space, which will be called Tansey Green Retail Park, and homes were submitted by landowners Helical Retail, Ibstock and AE Hawkins. It is envisaged the work will be completed by early 2020.

Forward

Jonathan Cox, managing director of Helical Retail, said: "We are delighted we can now move forward with our plans. It is a great opportunity for the area, injecting new life into this disused brownfield site, bringing around 150 jobs.

"We will now get on with marketing the scheme to retail and leisure operators and look forward to announcing those in due course.

"All being well, we will be starting work on site this time next year and would anticipate completing in early 2020."

by David Cosgrove

Nick Spence, planning and estates manager for Ibstock, said, "We are pleased to see brownfield land being brought back into use through the delivery of high quality affordable homes alongside the creation of new jobs in retail."

Council chiefs, in a report ahead of a meeting last month, said: "This application would result in the redevelopment of a brownfield site which is allocated for housing and mixed use, positively contributing towards the regeneration of the borough, the delivery of much needed housing, council tax, new homes bonus and jobs."

It is for the opposite side of Stallings Lane to Pensnett Trading Estate.

Poet and boxer Matt Windle visits The Crestwood School in Kingswinford to meet pupils

Poems that are packing a punch

BIRMINGHAM Poet Laureate and boxer Matt Windle visited schoolchildren in Kingswinford to challenge stereotypes.

The professional athlete, and lover of the spoken word, went along to The Crestwood School to deliver a fun lesson entitled Poetry with Punch, promoting reading, keeping active and pursuing passions.

Matt said: "I had a bostin' day celebrating World Book Day at Crestwood School and Sixth Form. I would very much like to break down barriers and stereotypes between the young and old, different cultures and different sexes, and show people that poetry can be for any 'type' of person.

"I am a professional boxer currently ranked sixth in Britain. When people discover that I am also a poet, they are surprised."

Big lift for Stiltz from its exports

A KINGSWINFORD company has been ranked as the Midlands fastest growing small or medium-sized firm for exports for the second year in a row.

Home lifts manufacturer Stiltz Lifts was tenth nationally in the Sunday Times Lloyds SME Export Track 100. Stiltz Lifts chairman Mike Lord said: "We've worked very hard to reinvent the domestic lift market. We want homeowners to be able to put Stiltz lifts in their homes as naturally as they would purchase a freezer or a washing machine."

Stiltz Lifts, on the Pensnett Estate, has installed its capsule-shaped home lifts, which plug straight into a domestic socket, in more than 20 countries. The company, employing around 140, recorded total sales of £12.5m in 2017.

Hickory's plan fifth eatery

HICKORY'S Smokehouse, which has a popular restaurant in Wall Heath, will create up to 100 jobs when it brings its first new-build restaurant to Shropshire.

The company, based in Chester, said that Telford had been on its wish-list for some time. Now it has submitted plans for a barbecue restaurant at The Rock.

It has restaurants in Chester, Southport, Castle Bromwich and Kidderminster Road, Wall Heath.

TaxAssist Accountants
ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES
• Self Assessment Tax Returns
• Business Accounts
• Corporation Tax
• Bookkeeping and VAT
• Business Start-ups
• Company Formations
• Payroll and RTI
• Help with CIS
• Fixed Fees
01384 371111
www.taxassist.co.uk/MelvynShepherd Melvyn shephard@taxassist
Winwood Court, Unit 3, Norton Road, Stourbridge DY8 2AE
Anglo House, Worcester Road, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire DY13 9AN 01299 519160

Halesowen Fireplaces
AT THE HEART OF YOUR HOME
Complete Fireplace Packages from £499
(including fire)
360° VIRTUAL TOUR NOW ON WEBSITE
For a range of Gas and Electric Fires and Surrounds visit our showroom (opposite Tyre City on Long Lane)
Telephone 0121 559 9985
Like us on facebook
Unit 14, Long Lane Trading Estate, Long Lane, Halesowen B62 9LD
www.halesowenfireplaces.co.uk

March Madness on belling
Cookers, Washing Machines, Tumble Dryers
www.geoffhillltd.co.uk
SALES LINE
01384 395852
7 HIGH STREET, AMBLECOTE, WEST MIDLANDS DY8 4DE

co-operative travel
Part of The Midcounties Co-operative
Low Deposit from only £49
Free child places and early booking discount*
Live for the moment
Let our travel experts find your perfect holiday today!
Pop into your local Midcounties Co-operative Travel branch, Stourbridge, Stafford, Kingswinford, Wall Heath, Stourport, Franche or call 0845 450 8225
Find your local branch at cooptravel.co.uk/find-a-branch
*Applicable to new overseas package holiday bookings, subject to availability and change. Low deposit is per person to be paid at time of booking, applies to selected holidays with selected operators. The remaining holiday balance must be paid 14 weeks prior to departure or on a specific due date, whichever is sooner. In the event of cancellation, any outstanding balance must be paid in full. We reserve the right to withdraw this offer without notice. Additional terms and conditions may apply - please ask for details.
ABTA Travel with confidence

Conviction quashed due to police failures in custody

AN ASPERGER'S sufferer who was refused help by police officers – despite foaming at the mouth and attempting to drink water from the toilet of his custody cell – has won an appeal for his conviction to be quashed.

West Midlands Police broke the Police and Criminal Evidence Act by not providing an 'appropriate adult' for Christopher Miller after his arrest on suspicious of drug-driving, according to a High Court ruling.

Mr Miller, 24, from Great Barr, was kept in a cell at Oldbury Police Station for more than three hours despite police knowing he was a suicide risk, had mental health issues and suffered from Asperger's Syndrome. He requested an appropriate adult, but 'no effort' was made by staff to contact one.

He was later convicted at Dudley Magistrates Court of failing to provide a blood specimen, fined £180 and banned from driving for a year.

The Crown Prosecution Service accepted no appropriate adult was called, but said it was 'justified in the circumstances', with Mr Miller acting erratically and being violent.

Mr Miller's defence said he had reasonable excuse for not providing a specimen because of his failure to understand the procedure, due to his learning difficulties. As this was based on his mental health issues, the High Court ruled the evidence for the charge had to be excluded.

Breach

In a report on the High Court Ruling by Lord Justice Hickinbottom and Mr Justice Dove, it said: "The failure to inform and summon an appropriate adult in breach of the code, in our view, had a clear adverse impact on the fairness of permitting the evidence of the drug-drive procedure to be admitted.

"We quash the conviction on the basis that the prosecution of the appellant on the charge with this appeal is concerned turned entirely upon the evidence now excluded."

West Midlands Police said it expected officers to 'act lawfully and treat everyone with respect."

Expansion of stand mooted at Molineux

MOLINEUX'S iconic South Bank could become one of the biggest single-tier stands in the country under new Wolves plans.

The club is thought to be considering expanding the Jack Hayward Stand – commonly known as the South Bank – to a capacity of up to 10,000 seats.

It is believed they hope to build on the back of the existing stand, which houses around 5,000 fans.

However, the car park area immediately behind the stand is owned by Carillion and it's understood that potentially lengthy negotiations are currently ongoing as to the purchase of the land.

Any redevelopment work is unlikely to take place next season, even if Wolves win promotion to the top flight. It's believed that spending money on the team would be a higher priority with any stadium expansion only taking place should the club stay in the Premier League.

The redevelopment of Molineux has been on hold since 2012 when the team was relegated from the Premier League. The £18 million Stan Cullis Stand opened that year. With Wolves now edging nearer to a return to the top flight, owners Fosun are working on what would be a revamped plan to expand Molineux.

Metro – get on board for breakfast meeting

BUSINESSES are being offered the chance to work on the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill tram extension.

A breakfast meeting at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill is being held on April 17 at 7.30am. The FinditintheBlackCountry team will host the meeting. Spaces for the business breakfast meeting cost £15 plus VAT, call (01384) 563050.

Architects helping college students

STOURBRIDGE College has launched its new built environment facility by establishing a partnership with national architectural practice Corstorphine + Wright.

Over the last two years Corstorphine + Wright has provided the college's 60 construction students with industry-related lectures and work placements.

Three of the college's students have gone on to be recruited by the company after completing work experience at its Hagley Road offices in Stourbridge, while continuing their studies and training.

"Teaming up with Corstorphine + Wright puts the college in a stronger position to show our learners the professional working environment they will be joining," said Gill Coldicott, Head of Stourbridge College.

"The industry hasn't stopped calling out for skilled workers. The partnership will help us to continue to develop the construction courses, apprenticeships and training programmes we offer."

Mike Turner, the company's technical director, said: "We already have training and recruitment initiatives in place for graduates and undergraduates and now we are going a step further.

"We hope to inform students about the design and technician roles available on residential, commercial and industrial projects being developed across the UK as well as the region.

Gill Coldicott of Stourbridge College and Mike Turner of Corstorphine + Wright

Prefab homes on the agenda

PREFABRICATED houses, which were constructed between 1945 and 1951 to help solve Britain's housing shortage after the Second World War, will be the subject of a history talk on Thursday, March 15, in Stourbridge.

Historian and author Ned Williams will be speaking to members of Stourbridge Historical Society in the Wollaston Room at Stourbridge Town Hall.

His illustrated talk will be titled Prefabs: Palaces for the People. The event will start at 7.30pm.

Non-members are welcome to attend the talk, admission £3. More information is available from www.stourbridgehistoricalsociety.com or call (01384) 274014.

DESIGNED | PLANNED | INSTALLED

THE ONE STOP SHOPPING | EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR

NEW KITCHEN / BATHROOM AND BEDROOM

Serenity
KITCHENS & BATHROOMS

FREE & NO OBLIGATION
WE TRY HARDER
HOME VISIT AND SURVEY

COME AND VISIT US IN STORE TODAY

EXAMPLE JOB
- Shower enclosure or bath
- New shower/basin/wc
- 15 sqm wall and floor tiling
- Debris removed

Only £3850.00

DISABILITY SPECIAL OFFER
We have a good history of working with clients who have trouble using their bath
- New shower and folding seat and grab rail
- Receive a new easy access shower
- Tiled inside

Only £2150.00
age UK RECOMMENDED

DUDLEY Dawley Trading Estate | Stallings Lane | Kingswinford | DY6 7AP

Call us on 01384 279 997
Email: info@serenitykitchensbathrooms.co.uk
www.serenitykitchensbathrooms.co.uk

OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK | SUNDAY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Advertisement Feature

FURTHER INVESTMENT IN LOCAL FAMILY COACH HOLIDAY COMPANY

Greenline Coaches pride themselves on being the Black Country's true king of the road.

Based in Stourbridge, the thriving family owned company aims to put the customer first at all times by offering executive coach hire combined with a diverse range of day tours, weekend breaks and four to eight-day holidays throughout the UK. Many of the hotels used by Greenline are also family-owned and run.

Greenline director/owner Andy Phillips is assisted by wife Nikki, brother Simon, niece Amy, and 10 other trusted members of staff to complete a happy and eficient team.

Experience

Andy has many years' experience within the sector having previously worked for a well known Blackheath coach company until their retirement.

Andy said: "After that company ended, I used to see lots of old customers and they'd always comment on how much they missed their day trips and holidays so that inspired me to start our own company.

"I'm delighted to say we get lots of word of mouth recommendations and repeat bookings Our personal and friendly service combined with our experienced of ce staff, professional drivers and couriers ensure that our customers' day tours and holidays are always pleasurable and memorable.

"We treat our customers as a name, not a number, and regard them as part of our Greenline family. They receive free drinks, biscuits and treats on all holidays served by our friendly and helpful on-board couriers."

Brand New Luxury top of the range Mercedes coach

49 luxurious seats

Group returning from one of our many holidays

Greenline's smart executive coaches are modern 16 to 53-seater executive models with air suspension, toilets, air conditioning and drink- making facilities. Holidays are being offered throughout the year including tours to Torquay, Weymouth, Sidmouth, Scotland,Isle of Wight,and Scarborough. The company has invested over £800,000 in its fleet over the last 18 months and took delivery of a 49 seater luxury top of the range Mercedes coach this week to compliment the other vehicles currently in its fleet to help meet demands for the great Greenline Holidays and day tours they have on offer.

Andy added: "Everyone at Greenline Coaches has a big heart coupled with a huge passion to succeed in what we enjoy doing most in life, which is providing fun, friendship and laughter in the holidays and day trips we provide for our customers. We would like to thank all of our customers for supporting us on our journey over the past eight years and look forward to welcoming them, with new customers, on board in the future."

For the full 2018 programme of day tours and holidays and details of how to book call 01384 444464 or 01384 444161 or visit www.greenlinecoaches.com

CABARET MYSTERY 4 DAY TOUR? - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL
Friday 16th - Monday 19th March 2018 4 Days $139

EXMOUTH - CAVENDISH HOTEL
Monday 19th - Friday 23rd March 2018 5 Days SOLD OUT $225

TORQUAY NETHWAY HOTEL
Monday 19th - Friday 23rd March 2018 5 days $199

CABARET MYSTERY 4 DAY TOUR? - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL
Friday 23rd - Monday 26th March 2018 4 Days SOLD OUT $139

BOGNOR REGIS - ROYAL NORFOLK HOTEL
Monday 26 - Friday 30th March 2018 5 Days SOLD OUT $225

PORTCAWL - SEABANK HOTEL Easter Friday
30th March - Monday 2nd April 2018 4 Days $209

SIDMOUTH - ROYAL YORK & FAULKNER HOTEL Easter week
Monday 2nd - Friday 6th April 2018 5 Days $329

SPRING WEEKEND MYSTERY - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL
Friday 6th - Monday 9th April 2018 4 Days $149

WEYMOUTH - FAIRHAVEN HOTEL
Monday 9th - Friday 13th April 2018 5 Days $269

ILFRACOMBE - IMPERIAL HOTEL
Monday 16th - Friday 20th April 2018 5 Days $219

WARNERS CORTON COASTAL VILLAGE
Monday 16th - Friday 20th April 2018 5 Days $279

WEEKEND MYSTERY - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL
Saturday 21st - Sunday 22nd April 2018 2 Days SOLD OUT $79

TENBY - CLARENCE HOUSE HOTEL
Monday 23rd - Friday 27th April 2017 5 Days SOLD OUT $269

TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL Motown Weekend
Friday 27th - Sunday 29th April 2018 3 Days SOLD OUT $119

PAIGNTON - HOTEL BONAIR ESPLANADE
Monday 30th April - Friday 4th May 2018 5 Days SOLD OUT $235

BABBACOMBE - HOTEL DE LA MER
Friday 4th - Sunday 6th May 2018 3 Days $125

LLANDUDNO - QUEENS HOTEL
Monday 7th - Friday 11th May 2018 5 Days $309

GREAT YARMOUTH - NEW BEACH HOTEL
Wednesday 9th - Sunday 13th May 2018 5 Days $235

CROMER - HOTEL DE PARIS NEW
Sunday 13th - Saturday 19th May 2018 7 Days $365

MORECAMBE LAKES & DALES - AUCKLAND HOTEL
Monday 14th - Friday 18th May 2048 5 Days SOLD OUT $259

MYSTERY SOUTH COAST - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL
Friday 18th - Monday 21st May 2018 4 Days $159

EASTBOURNE - THE HADLEIGH HOTEL
Monday 21st - Friday 25th May 2018 5 Days $289

MYSTERY WEEKEND - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL
Saturday 26th - Sunday 27th May 2018 2 Days $79

LONDON - 5 STAR WALDORF HOTEL *** Treat Yourself!**
Sunday 27th - Monday 28th May 2018 2 Days $119

TORQUAY - HOWDEN COURT HOTEL
Monday 28th May - Friday 1st June 2018 5 Days $259

SETTLE TO CARLISLE RAILWAY - AUCKLAND HOTEL
Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd June 2018 3 Days SOLD OUT $149

PAIGNTON - HOTEL BONAIR ESPLANADE
Saturday 2nd - Saturday 9th June 2018 8 Days $365

PORTHCAWL - SEABANK HOTEL
Wednesday 6th - Sunday 10th June 2018 5 Days $275

NEWQUAY - ELIOT HOTEL
Sunday 10th - Saturday 16th June 2018 7 Days $359

LYTHAM ST ANNES - LINDUN HOTEL
Monday 11th - Friday 15th June 2018 5 Days SOLD OUT $265

MYSTERY WEEKEND - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL
Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th June 2018 2 Days $79

SIDMOUTH - THE BEDFORD HOTEL
Monday 18th - Friday 22nd June 2018 5 Days SOLD OUT $349

ISLE OF WIGHT - THE TROUVILLE HOTEL, SANDOWN
Monday 18th - Saturday 23rd June 2018 6 Days SOLD OUT $359

TORQUAT - NETHWAY HOTEL Motown Weekend
Friday 22nd - Sunday 24 June 2018 3 Days $119

BABBACOMBE - HOTEL DE LA MER
Sunday 23th - Wednesday 27th June 2018 5 Days $269

EASTBOURNE - HADDON HALL
Saturday 30th June - Saturday 7th July 2018 8 Days SOLD OUT $439

SCARBOROUGH - CUMBERLAND HOTEL NEW
Wednesday 4th - Sunday 8th July 2018 5 Days $275

WARNERS ALVASTON HALL HOTEL NEW
Monday 9th - Friday 13th July 2018 5 Days $375

WEYMOUTH - FAIRHAVEN HOTEL
Monday 9th - Friday 13th July 2018 5 Days $309

TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL Motown Weekend
Friday 13th - Sunday 15th July 2018 3 Days SOLD OUT $119

SKEGNESS - SAVOY HOTEL
Monday 16th - Friday 20th July 2018 5 Days $299

TORQUAY - HOWDEN COURT HOTEL
Saturday 21st - Saturday 28th July 2018 8 Days $399

BOURNEMOUTH - ULLSWATER HOTEL
Monday 23rd - Friday 27th July 2018 5 Days $265

ISLE OF WIGHT - BAYSHORE HOTEL, SANDOWN NEW
Saturday 28th July - Saturday 4th August 2018 8 Days $439

WARNER LAKESIDE COASTAL VILLAGE NEW
Monday 6th - Friday 10th August 2018 5 Days $309

MYSTERY WEEKEND - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL
Saturday 11th - Sunday 12th August 2018 2 Days $79

PAIGNTON - HOTEL BONAIR ESPLANADE
Saturday 11th - Saturday 18th August 2018 8 Days $379

ST IVES - COTTAGE HOTEL
Sunday 19th - Saturday 25th August 2018 7 Days SOLD OUT $379

TENBY - CLARENCE HOUSE HOTEL
Sunday 26th - Thursday 30th August 2018 5 Days $309

SETTLE TO CARLISLE RAILWAY - AUCKLAND HOTEL
Friday 31st August - Sunday 2nd Sept 2018 3 Days $149

MYSTERY WEEKEND - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL
Saturday 1st - Sunday 2nd Sept 2018 2 Days $79

LLANDUDNO - THE MARLBOROUGH HOTEL
Monday 3rd - Friday 7th Sept 2018 5 Days $299

EASTBOURNE - LANGHAM HOTEL
Monday 3rd - Friday 7th Sept 2018 5 Days $309

BABBACOMBE - HOTEL DE LA MER
Saturday 8TH - Wednesday 12th Sept 2018 5 Days $279

SCARBOROUGH - RED LEA HOTEL
Monday 10 - Friday 14th Sept 2018 5 Days $299

HAYLING ISLAND - MILL RYTHE HOLIDAY VILLAGE
Monday 10th - Friday 14th Sept 2018 5 Days $239

WEYMOUTH - FAIRHAVEN HOTEL
Monday 17th - Friday 21st Sept 2018 5 Days $309

LYTHAM ST ANNES - LINDUM HOTEL
Monday 17th - Friday 21st Sept 2018 5 Days $279

MYSTERY WEEKEND - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL
Friday 21st - Monday 24th Sept 2018 4 Days $199

TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL
Monday 24th - Friday 28th Sept 2018 5 Days $245

MORECAMBE - CARLISLE/SETTLE RAILWAY & SCOTISH BORDERS AUCKLAND HOTEL
Monday 24th - Friday 28th Sept 2018 5 Days $289

CRICCIETH - GEORGE IV HOTEL
Monday 1st - Friday 5th October 2018 5 Days $219

MYSTERY WEEKEND - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL
Saturday 6th - Sunday 7th October 2018 2 days $79

SCOTLAND DUNOON - SELBOURNE HOTEL NEW
Sunday 7th - Saturday 13th October 2018 7 Days $279

WEYMOUTH - NORFOLK HOTEL NEW
Friday 12th - Monday 15th October 2018 4 Days $139

BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS - CARN-BRAE HOTEL
Monday 15th - Friday 19th October 2018 5 Days $229

WARNERS - CRICKET ST THOMAS HOTEL NEW
Monday 15th - Friday 19th October 2018 5 Days $359

TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL Motown Weekend
Friday 19th - Sunday 21st October 2018 3 Days $119

GREENLINE BASH! - 5 DAY MYSTERY NEW
Monday 22nd - Friday 26th October 2018 5 Days $209

BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS - CARN-BRAE HOTEL
Saturday 27th - Monday 29th October 2018 3 Days $149

LONDON - 5 STAR WALDORF HOTEL*** Treat Yourself!**
Sunday 28th - Monday 29 October 2018 2 Days $119

PAIGNTON - HOTEL BONAIR ESPLANADE Turkey & Tinsel
Monday 29th Oct - Friday 2nd Nov 2018 5 Days $239

TORQUAY - HOWDEN COURT HOTEL Turkey & Tinsel With a Halloween Twist Monday 29th Oct - Friday 2nd Nov 2018 5 Days $269

TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL Turkey & Tinsel
Friday 2nd - Sunday 4th Nov 2018 3 Days $119

EASTBOURNE - HADDON HALL HOTEL Turkey & Tinsel
Monday 5th - Friday 9th Nov 2018 5 Days $290

WESTON-SUPER-MARE - SANDRINGHAM HOTEL
Monday 5th - Friday 9th Nov 2018 5 Days $249

MYSTERY WEEKEND - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL Turkey & Tinsel Saturday 10th - Sunday 11th Nov 2018 2 Days $79

LLANDUDNO - QUEENS HOTEL Turkey & Tinsel
Monday 12th - Friday 16th Nov 2018 5 Days $275

BABBACOMBE - HOTEL DE LA MER Turkey & Tinsel
Tuesday 13th - Saturday 17th Nov 2018 5 Days $259

MYSTERY TURKEY & TINSEL - WHERE WILL WE BE? HOTEL Turkey & Tinsel Friday 16th - Monday 19th Nov 2018 4 Days $159

TENBY - CLARENCE HOUSE HOTEL Turkey & Tinsel
Monday 19th - Friday 23rd Nov 2018 5 Days $279

SIDMOUTH - ROYAL YORKS & FAULKNER HOTEL Turkey & Tinsel
Wednesday 21st - Sunday 25th Nov 2018 5 Days $299

PORTHCAWL - SEABANK HOTEL Turkey & Tinsel
Monday 26th - Friday 30th Nov 2018 5 Days SOLD OUT $239

GREAT YARMOUTH - NEW BEACH HOTEL Thursford Spectacular
Friday 30th November - Monday 3rd Dec 2018 4 Days $259

CROMER - HOTEL DE PARIS Thursford Spectacular
Friday 7th - Monday 10th Dec 2018 4 Days $259

LONDON - 5 STAR WALDFORF HOTEL ***
Christmas Shopping Sunday 16th - Monday 17th Dec 2018 2 Days $119

PAIGNTON - HOTEL BONAIR ESPLANADE Christmas
Sunday 23rd - Thursday 27th Dec 2018 5 Days SOLD OUT $420

TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL Christmas
Sunday 23rd - Thursday 27th Dec 2018 5 Days $429

BABBACOMBE - HOTEL DE LA MER Twixmas
Thursday 27th - Sunday 30th Dec 2018 4 Days $179

TORQUAY - NETHWAY HOTEL Twixxmas
Thursday 27th - Sunday 30th Dec 2018 4 Days $179

TENBY - CLARENCE HOUSE HOTEL New Year Sun
30th Dec 2018 - Wed 2nd Jan 2019 4 Days SOLD OUT $349

ILFRACOMBE - IMPERIAL HOTEL New Year Sun
30th Dec 2018 - Wed 2nd Jan 2019 4 Days $365

LLANDUDNO - ST KILDA HOTEL * New Year**
Sun 30th Dec 2018 - Wed 2nd Jan 2019 4 Days SOLD OUT $379

GREENLINE 01384 44 44 64 01384 44 41 61

PUBLIC NOTICE

MUST END SOON

LEVINES

MUST END SOON

Furniture, Bed, 3 Pc Suite Superstore

£300,000 TOTAL STOCK CLEARANCE

SAVE UP TO **60%**

ALL STOCK MUST BE SOLD

UNBEATABLE DEALS • ALL STOCK REDUCED TO SELL

Friday 9th March	Saturday 10th March	Sunday 11th March
9.00am-6.00pm	9.00am-6.00pm	10.30am-4.30pm

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
3 ONLY
The Kelly Full Double Frame and Superb Mattress

SAVE 40% Was £299 — NOW ONLY £179 COMPLETE

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
4 SETS ONLY
The Minnesota Luxury Recliner Sofas 3 Seater Recliner + 2 Seater Recliner Black on Brown

SAVE 30% Was £995 — NOW ONLY £689 THE PAIR

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
6 ONLY
The Zen 3/4 Size Small Double Frame

SAVE 70% Was £149 — NOW ONLY £49 MATTRESS EXTRA

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
2 SETS ONLY
The Henley Latest Design Glass Table + 4 Matching Chairs White on Black

SAVE 30% Was £499 — NOW ONLY £299

THE CORONA RANGE OF BEDROOM FURNITURE
WEEKEND SPECIAL DEAL
UNBEATABLE PRICES 3 DAYS ONLY
LOWEST PRICES

Triple 3 Door Wardrobe	£249
Large Dressing Table	£109
Double Door Wardrobe	£199
3 Drawer Large Chest	£99

THE MATTRESS COLLECTION
IMMEDIATE DELIVERY SAVE 50%

	3FT SINGLE SIZE	4FT SMALL DOUBLE SIZE	4FT 6IN FULL DOUBLE SIZE	5FT FULL KING SIZE
Budget	£35	£59	£69	£79
Deluxe	£69	£79	£89	£109
Orthopaedic	£79	£99	£109	£139
Memory Foam	£89	£119	£129	£159
Pocket Sprung	£139	£179	£179	£199

LOTS MORE AVAILABLE – ALL REDUCED

THE CORONA RANGE OF SOLID WOOD DINING FURNITURE WEEKEND SPECIAL
WEEKEND SPECIAL DEAL
UNBEATABLE PRICES 3 DAYS ONLY
LOWEST PRICES

Large Wide Sideboard	£155
Oblong Long TV Unit	£95
Nest of 3 Tables	£50
Coffee Table with Drawers	£59.50

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
5 ONLY
The Pearl Luxury Full Double Size Orthopaedic Bed Base + Mattress

SAVE 25% Was £249 — NOW £149 HEADBOARD EXTRA

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
4 ONLY
The Clio Memory Foam Superb Quality Complete Full Double Size Beds

SAVE 50% Was £449 — NOW £179

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
3 ONLY
The Balmoral Extending Table Super Oak + 4 Matching Chairs CRAZY PRICE

SAVE 70% Was £599 — NOW £249

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
The Borba 4 Door Wardrobe 218cm wide, 215cm long Super Storage Space Latest Colours Top Quality Wardrobe

SAVE 30% Was £499 — ONLY £259

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
4 SETS ONLY
Bunk Beds Full Single Size Silver Bunks Beds CRAZY SALE PRICE

SAVE 50% Was £199 — NOW ONLY £119 MATTRESS EXTRA

TOTAL CLEARANCE PRICE
1 ONLY
The Salsa Sofas 3 Seater + 2 Seater Latest Design

SAVE 40% Was £799 — NOW ONLY £429 THE PAIR

TOTAL STOCK CLEARANCE
1 SET ONLY
The Roscrea Large Dark Wood Extending Table + 4 Matching Chairs

Was £999 — NOW ONLY £599 THE LOT

TOTAL STOCK CLEARANCE
1 ONLY
The Francesca 3 Seater Sofa + 2 Matching Reclienr Chairs

Was £1299 — NOW ONLY £699

583 BEARWOOD ROAD, BEARWOOD B66 4BH
TEL: 0121-420-2991

LEVINES

LEVEL STREET, BRIERLEY HILL
01384 79393

Live Knightmare scenario

AT its peak cult children's TV show Knightmare pulled in more than six million viewers – and fans of the series will be taking a special Black Country trip down memory lane this week.

The critically acclaimed stage adaptation of the late 1980s and early 1990s cult classic, Knightmare Live, is coming to Brierley Hill Civic Hall tonight (Thursday). Hundreds of fans have already snapped up tickets.

The concept of the TV show was simple. Teams of four children would attempt to beat all the devilish traps of a virtual reality dungeon. Goblins, giant spiders, and talking walls were just some of the obstacles that needed to be overcome along the way.

One of the four would be the dungeoneer, blinded by wearing the infamous helmet of justice. He or she would be guided by the other three, of course with the help of dungeon master Treguard, played by Hugo Myatt.

The idea to create a live version of the show came nearly 20 years after its run on television screens ended.

Paul Flannery, who created the show and also plays Treguard in the live version, said: "Like most of life's good ideas, I was in a pub when Knightmare Live drew first breath.

"It came about as a result of a simple conversation about what would make a good Edinburgh show. Funhouse, The Crystal Maze and Art Attack were all mooted before Knightmare. After that night, I just couldn't get the idea out of my head.

Patronise

"I could see Knightmare working, the mechanics lent themselves to the stage far better than any of the others.

"I'd always been a fan of Knightmare since I was a kid. The thing that sticks out for me and what I think contributed to its success, is that it didn't patronise the contestants. If you made a mistake, you died and that was it, bye bye.

"A lot of other kids shows seemed to give away huge prizes for very little effort. Even if you did win Knightmare – which only eight teams ever did in eight seasons – the prize was a simple trophy."

Paul and his team took the show to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for the first time in 2013 – and the response was incredible. The show sold out for the whole run and received a clutch of four and five-star reviews.

It has continued to receive critical acclaim ever since, with annual Edinburgh runs and the show also becoming a regular part of the Underbelly Festival on the Southbank of London. "During a show at the End of the Road Festival, the organisers had to stop people coming into the forest glade stage area," Paul said. "About 1,500 people had decided to miss the end of the Flaming Lips and see our little show.

"About three-quarters of the way through we were asked to keep it down as the neighbours from a mile away had complained about the noise, basically people laughing. I can think of no higher praise."

The show also became award-winning last year, landing the prestigious 'Best Live Event' gong at gaming convention UK LARP.

So what can people expect from the show at Brierley Hill?

"The show's current format is far more improvised than it has been in the past," Paul said. "In Brierley Hill you can expect to be asked to name the quest the dungeoneer is going on. We'll be taking quest items from the audience at the start too, these are unusual items people have brought with them to 'help' with the quest.

"Also a few lucky people will get to wear the iconic helmet of Justice and partake in the quest."

Tickets for Knightmare Live cost £10. Children are welcome, although parents are warned there may be some mild swearing due to the improvised nature of the show.

Lord Fear and live show Treguard, alias Paul Flannery

A scene from the original TV series of Knightmare

Obstacles faced by the Knightmare contestants

Original Treguard Hugo Myatt and creator Paul Flannery

New York gangs fight turf war in West Side Story

GROUND-BREAKING musical West Side Story is being performed in Stourbridge this week.

Inspired by Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, the original Broadway production opened in 1957, featuring music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. This show marked the latter's Broadway debut.

A 1961 movie of the musical followed, with a host of Tony and Academy Award nominations, bringing the raw reality of gang life on the streets of New York to world.

Depicting the struggle between rival gangs, The Jets and The Sharks, West Side Story is essentially a tale of love, where an all-American boy, Tony, falls for Puerto Rican girl Maria, the sister of Sharks leader Bernado. Amid racial prejudice and cultural differences, how can their love survive?

The unforgettable score includes One Hand, One Heart, Somewhere, I Feel Pretty, America, Tonight and Maria.

It is rarely performed by amateurs, but one group who have been brave enough to take it on is TAB Operatic Society. The run kicked off last night (Wednesday) and it is on until Saturday at Stourbridge Town Hall, with showtimes at 7.30pm and a Saturday matinee at 2.30.

In TAB's production, Mitchell Bastable appears as Bernado, with Dan Smith as Tony, Beth Berwick-Lowe as Maria and Grant Chapman as Riff.

Tickets are £17-£13. Call 07722417962 or visit www.taboperatic.com

Ale festival help call

MORE volunteers are needed to help with the annual Stourbridge Beer Festival next month.

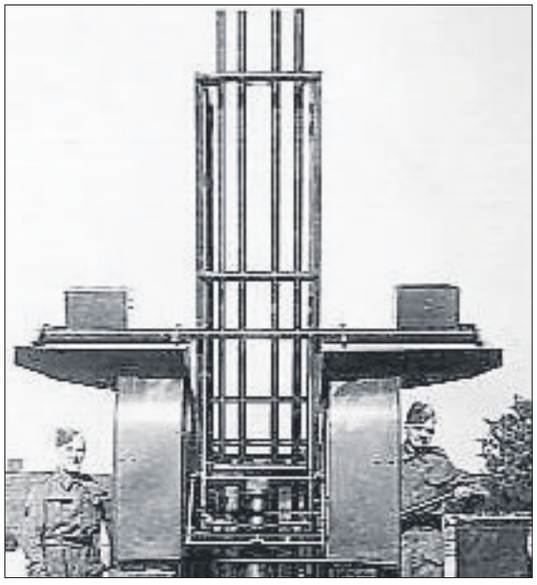
The Stourbridge and Halesowen branch of the Campaign for Real Ale is staging the event in the town hall from April 25 to 28 with more than 100 beers to feature.

Help is needed with manning the bars and setting up and taking down. Sign up at stourbridgebeerfest.org.uk

The Officers and NCOs of the Dunstall Park Z Battery

The Home Guard being inspected outside the Town Hall

The Goodyear Home Guard Unit



A Wolverhampton Z Battery twin launcher

Dunstall Park home to rockets

IN the Second World War there was a battery of anti-aircraft rockets on Dunstall Park, sometimes manned by the Home Guard.

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

The 3in rocket had been developed before the war, firstly for use by the Navy with the enthusiastic backing of Winston Churchill.

It had a solid cordite fuel, and had a warhead with a proximity fuse, and could also trail a long wire to wrap around attacking aircraft.

They began to be deployed in twin and multiple launchers for use against low-flying German bombers, known as Z Batteries, and the twin launchers on Dunstall Park were part of 25 Anti-Aircraft Regiment, with 101 South Staffordshire Home Guard helping to man them, both at Dunstall Park and in Kings Heath, Birmingham.

The Wolverhampton unit was No.7 Relief, with Captain John Black as its commanding officer. Like others in the unit, he had joined the Home Guard at his place of work, Quasi-Arc in Bilston, when first formed. Also based on Dunstall Park was a smokescreen unit, which would have blanketed the town with a bank of filthy smoke in response to a major raid.

The Germans had a three-part plan to bomb the industrial cities of the Midlands. The first raid was against Coventry, then Birmingham suffered a week of raids, but thankfully the attack on the third target, Wolverhampton, was cancelled.

Only solitary German aircraft dropped their bombs on Wolverhampton during the War, with scattered results, and salvos of rockets did not light up the night sky.

A Z Battery firing a salvo of rockets

New transport app going live in region

A MULTI-MILLION pound scheme aimed at transforming the way people travel will get its UK launch in the West Midlands next month.

The region has been chosen to pilot the Whim travel app, which enables commuters to use a combination of different types of public transport and taxis for a set price.

The scheme will also include the rental of 'Boris Bikes' – 5,000 of the loan cycles are set to hit the region's streets this year.

It is the idea of Finnish firm Mobility as a Service (MaaS) Global and works by combining reservation and payment services to find the best routes and modes of transport for any journey.

Whim has been launched in collaboration with the West Midlands Combined Authority, Transport for West Midlands, National Express and other transport firms.

Chris Perry, MaaS Global's UK lead, said the scheme would offer a range of transport options while taking away the hassle of journey planning and buying tickets, with the added benefit of getting people out of their cars.

"We think this will revolutionise the way people buy and use all forms of transport," he said.

See whimapp.com/uk/ for details.

Summerfest bill is topped by Lemar

Soul singer Lemar headlines Summerfest for the hospice

R&B and pop stars Lemar, Matt Terry and Reggie 'n' Bollie have been announced for Mary Stevens Hospice's Summerfest at Himley Hall. The fundraising event, hosted by Signal 107, is take place on July 15.

Lemar is an English singer, songwriter and record producer. He rose to fame after finishing in third place on the first series of Fame Academy. He has won two Brit Awards and three MOBO Awards to date and released his sixth album, The Letter, in 2015.

The soul singer from London has had seven top 10 UK singles and sold more than two million albums, and is best known for singles such as It's Not That Easy, Time to Grow, If There's Any Justice, If She Knew, The Way Love Goes and Weight of the World.

Bromley singer Matt Terry won the 13th series of The X Factor in 2016 and is best known for his debut single, When Christmas Comes Around. He released his debut album Trouble last year.

Reggie 'n' Bollie, formerly known as Menn on Poinnt, are a Ghanian music duo made up of Reggie Zippy and Bollie Babeface. The act formed in 2012 and appeared on the 12th series of The X Factor in 2015, finishing as runners-up.

The event also include a food festival and car show. Early-bird tickets costing £15 are available until May 6. Go to marystevenshospice.co.uk/event/summerfest-2018 online.

Party surprise at next movie matinee

NEW comedy film The Party will be shown at a regular cinema matinee next month.

It stars Kristin Scott Thomas as Janet who has just been appointed to a key ministerial position. She and husband Bill (Timothy Spall) celebrate with a party. But as the guests arrive there are some explosive revelations. The movie also features Emily Mortimer and, from Peaky Blinders, Cillian Murphy. The film will be shown at Stourbridge Town Hall on March 19 at 1.30pm. Tickets cost £4.50.

Surgical instrument was left in patient after Russells Hall op

A MAN had a surgical instrument left inside him following an operation at Russells Hall Hospital.

The item, believed to be a 10-inch 'retractor', was discovered inside the patient after he returned to the hospital in Dudley complaining of severe abdominal pain. Health bosses are investigating the incident.

The patient is being kept 'fully informed' during the investigation, said a spokesman for the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the hospital.

A source, who asked not to be named, claimed the instrument concerned was a 10-inch retractor, which is used in surgical incisions.

The man returned around two weeks ago with severe abdominal pain and, after undergoing another operation, the instrument was found.

The chief executive of the trust, Diane Wake, said: "We can confirm that we are investigating an incident involving a retained object following a surgical procedure, and the patient concerned is being kept fully informed. We will not comment further without the patient's express permission."

Play within a play for a 'whodunnit' thriller

WHEN an actress is found dead from an apparent suicide after the opening night of her West End stage debut, the playwright is left heartbroken and on the first anniversary of her death, he gathers the cast and crew from that ill-fated night in the same theatre.

Stourbridge Theatre Company returns to the stage with the murder mystery Rehearsal For Murder. It is being staged at Stourbridge Town Hall from March 22 to 24 at 7.30pm, directed by Sandra Griswold.

Tickets cost £10 (concessions £8) and are available on 0333 666 3366 or from The French Deli in Coventry Street. They can also be obtained online at stourbridgeatheatre.co.uk website.

Putting your pet first
Vets4Pets
West Bromwich
0121 567 3250
139 Hill Top B70 0RZ

OUT OF HOURS SERVICE

Committed to bringing your pets high quality care at affordable prices

• Convenient Parking
• Familiar friendly team from sister practices
• Telephone advice
• No surcharge on consumables or procedures
• Link to sister practice systems
• Modern well equipped practice

Merry Hill Vets4Pets Putting your pet first
Inside Pets At Home, The Merry Hill Centre Station Drive, Brierly Hill, DY5 1SY
01384 480 698

Companion Carevets Oldbury
Inside Pets At home, Oldbury Green Retail Park,Oldbury B69 3DD
0121 270 2282

West Bromwich Vets4Pets Putting your pet first
139 Hill Top, West Bromwich, B70 0RZ
0121 567 3250

Nettles are key to attract butterflies

GARDENERS nationwide are being encouraged to do their bit for butterflies by taking part in a national Day of Conservation Action on Saturday, to mark the 50th anniversary of the charity Butterfly Conservation.

Planting the right material to help butterflies on their way is vital, says the charity. The insects love nectar-rich plants like buddleia and lavender – but they must also have the right types of breeding grounds.

Most butterflies lay their eggs on plants which will be eaten by the caterpillars when they hatch.

The eggs are generally laid on the underside of leaves and each caterpillar type likes only certain kinds of leaves.

CREATE A LONG GRASS AND WILDFLOWER AREA

Let an area of grass grow long and meadow brown butterflies should breed in it. But it's not generally lawn grass or ornamental grasses which are used.

Among the best are some of the bents (agrostis), cocksfoot, false brome, fescues and meadow grasses. They are wild grasses, not ornamental.

USE COLOURFUL ADDITIONS

Silver-studded blue will lay their eggs in heather, while honeysuckle provides an ideal spot for white admiral, and violets attract fritillaries to their leaves.

Some caterpillars will feast on nasturtiums, which can act as a deterrent to them eating your cabbages.

If you want your planting to remain relatively neat, plant buckthorn within your hedging to attract brimstones, and holly as a hedge, which attracts holly blue butterflies.

KEEP CLUMPS OF NETTLES

Many common garden butterflies, such as the red admiral, comma and small tortoiseshell, lay eggs on stinging nettles. The colourful nymphalid butterflies will lay their eggs on the nettle leaves, which will provide food for the caterpillars. Look out for eggs laid singly by the red admiral and comma or in batches by the small tortoiseshell and peacock. The eggs will hatch in one to three weeks, depending on temperature.

Organic effort to control pests and diseases

Tim Robinson and Heather Evans with some products

STAFF at a specialist plants centre in Shropshire have decided to take an organic approach to controlling garden pests and diseases this year.

Love Plants, which is based at caravan and motorhome dealership Salop Leisure's Shrewsbury headquarters, has decided not to use herbicides and pesticides on its plants this year.

But it will still stock chemical treatments for those customers who prefer them.

"Our decision to go organic complements the ethos of our business to support wildlife and the environment as well as preventing plants and pests developing immunity to chemicals," said Tim Robinson, Love Plants' manager. "A lot of the chemical treatments linger in the soil for a long time."

He has opted for organic products, including Neem Oil, horticultural soap and SB Invigorator, which have proved to be very effective at controlling pests and plant diseases. Staff also use weed burners instead of weed killers on the two-acre site which is home to a wide variety of nesting birds and insects.

Throwaway plastic is the last straw for the Queen

Discarded plastic is a real problem for rivers

HOUSEHOLDERS should follow the example of the Queen who has banned plastic water bottles and straws from royal estates.

Green energy expert Ron Fox made the comment after reports that water will now be served from glass bottles in all meetings at Buckingham and Holyrood Palaces and plastic straws will no longer be available in public cafes at all Her Majesty's homes. Also staff canteens will use china plates, glasses and recyclable paper cups while takeaway items will be in compostable packaging and goods will be sent between palaces in reusable material.

"The Queen is setting a fine example to everyone and it is such an easy step to step," said Mr Fox, of Noreus Ltd. "The problem is so severe now with eight million tonnes of plastic entering the oceans every year as highlighted by Sir David Attenborough in his BBC series Blue Planet II.

"The problem is that plastic can cause real problem to marine life and eventually enter our food chain. Just last month scientists reported they had found plastic particles in almost three quarters of fish living in the ocean depths."

The move was supported by the Church of England which has issued a series of climatic-conscious commandments for worshippers during Lent.

These include ditching disposable cups, encouraging Christians to bring their own mugs to church, using a fountain pen, keeping a set of cutlery in the car, ignoring the hotel mini bar, streaming films, TV shows and music online instead of buying DVDs and CDs and having a toothbrush made of bamboo.

The church also advises those in the pews on Sundays to avoid over-packaged food, buy milk in bottles and loose fruit and vegetables locally and to stop using disposable razors, liquid hand soaps and wet wipes. They also encourage parishioners to lobby their MP to back the campaign and to put a "no junk mail" sign on their letterbox.

The guide, sent to each of the church's 42 dioceses, focuses on five areas including food, kitchen and bathroom products, clothing and general homeware and travel items and it wants members to continue with this lifestyle change after Lent finishes at the end of this month.

Already the Queen's move is attracting nationwide support with the BBC planning to get rid of plastic cups and plastic cutlery by the end of this year. It will also remove plastic containers from its canteens by 2019. Sky has already announced it will ban single-use plastic from its business by 2020.

Meanwhile, restaurants and pub chains including All Bar One, JD Wetherspoon, Costa Coffee, Pizza Express and Wagamama have all said they will phase out plastic straws.

"We must all play our part in stopping this plastic tide and the first move should be to scrap the straw," said Mr Fox. "A plastic straw is used only once for minutes but it leaves a legacy in the environment that can last for many centuries."

Having a bad day? Get outside and in the garden

FROM improving our immune system to encouraging us to live in the moment, everyday gardening tasks can have a surprisingly positive impact on our physical and mental health.

As well as being a fun and effective form of exercise, gardening has also been proven to provide some much-needed stress relief and act as a natural form of therapy.

It's also a great opportunity for gardeners to release any anger or frustration in a safe and productive way, whilst helping us to feel more in tune with the seasonal changes and to live in the moment.

A spokesman for GardenBuildingsDirect.co.uk said: "Nothing beats breathing in fresh air and enjoying the great outdoors – even if it is just the humble patch of garden space at the back of your house.

"The benefits of gardening are countless, but we've picked out the best ones to try and get people up and outside when the weather begins to pick up this spring."

Here are 10 reasons why gardening is good for your health:

STRESS RELIEF

In a study conducted in the Netherlands, two groups of students were told to either read indoors or garden for 30 minutes after completing a stressful task and the group that took to the garden exhibited lower levels of cortisol, the stress hormone, than those that stayed inside to read. So, trading your BlackBerry for a blackberry bush might be the perfect way to fight stress.

FLOWER POWER

In our increasingly urbanised and technologically driven world, being surrounded by flowers and reconnecting with nature is a natural way of moderating your moods. Studies have found that spending time in green spaces helps people to relax, and it has an immediate impact on happiness and a long term positive effect on moods too.

IMMUNE SYSTEM

While you're outdoors basking in the sun, you'll also soak up plenty of vitamin D, which helps the body absorb calcium. In turn, calcium helps keep your bones strong and your immune system healthy.

RESPONSIBILITY

Having a living thing to care for gives us a responsibility which could be beneficial for people suffering with mental health issues, as it gives them purpose.

EXERCISE

A three to four-hour gardening session can burn as many calories as an hour at the gym! This will help to release endorphins – the "happy hormone" – which makes people feel satisfied and relaxed.

NATURAL THERAPY

When you mind is focused on the gardening task at hand – whether that's repotting, chopping, weeding or watering – you won't be worrying about bills, work, or the everyday stresses of life.

Gardening can bring many health benefits, from exercise and exertion to venting frustration and getting anger out of your system

Being around flowers can help to control your moods

Get digging if you've had a bad day

LIVE IN THE MOMENT

Being in and around the ever-changing cycle of nature helps us to appreciate the everyday and focus on the "now". Gardening helps us to feel more in tune with the seasonal changes, as the garden develops with each passing week. You may have a looming deadline at work, but the startling beauty of a freshly blooming peony will only be there to appreciate for a short time, so make the most of it.

VENT ANGER AND AGGRESSION

Some of the therapeutic power of gardening is that it allows us to unleash our anger and aggression as well as providing an opportunity to nurture. Bad day at work? Grab a shovel and get digging. Or better yet, pick up the garden shears and take it out on those brambles hiding in the hedge. The great thing about destructiveness in the garden is that it's also connected to renewal and growth – if you don't cut back the plants, your space will be swamped by them, so hack away!

COMMUNICATION

If you spend lots of time in the garden, you can develop your sensory system – all the colours, aromas and textures can develop your sight, smell, touch and hearing reflexes. This makes gardening especially suitable for young children as it helps develop their senses and imagination

ORGANIC

If you use your garden to grow and harvest fresh fruit, herbs and vegetables, your gut will benefit from eating foods that are higher in nutrients than the ones that may have travelled hundreds of miles to get to your local supermarket and on your plate.

YOU'LL ♥

SANDWELL COLLEGE OPEN DAYS

THURSDAY 8TH MARCH 4PM-7PM

SATURDAY 10TH MARCH 11AM-3PM

@ CENTRAL CAMPUS, SPON LANE, WEST BROMWICH, B70 6AW

SEE OUR AMAZING FACILITIES

Sandwell College West Bromwich

Ofsted Good Provider

www.sandwell.ac.uk

Star Reader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Your Chronicle in association with Preferred Travel Services

A Week on the Algarve

Flying Direct from Birmingham
Departs May 9, 16, Sep 27, Oct 4, Nov 11 2018 & Mar 14 2019

On this relaxing week in an excellent hotel amid the beauty of the Algarve you will discover not just the spectacular coastline at Cape St Vincent and beautiful Lagos in the rugged west, but also the unspoilt countryside of the hinterland, with historic sites such as Silves, the former Moorish capital. Your resort, Armação de Pêra, boasts one of the most beautiful beaches in the Algarve, with pretty coves and a panorama of brightly coloured fishing boats.

Price includes

- Return direct flights from Birmingham
- 7 nights HB accommodation in the 4* Holiday Inn on the beach at Armação de Pêra
- 3 included guided excursions visiting Portimao, Silves, Cape St Vincent and Lagos
- Services of a tour representative

The Costa Blanca, Valencia & Guadalest

Flying Direct from Birmingham
Departs May 17, Sep 6, 27 & Nov 8 2018

The popular Costa Blanca resort of Calpe has a bit of everything – beautiful beaches, a lively and picturesque old town, stunning scenery. In the mountains inland from Calpe, are the historic village of Guadalest and the medieval city of Alcoy. Thriving Valencia is Spain's third city, behind Madrid and Barcelona, but is at least their equal in terms of history and cultural diversity.

Price includes

- Return direct flights from Birmingham
- 7 nights HB 4-star accommodation in Calpe
- Excursions to Valencia, Guadalest and Alcoy, excursion to Denia, one free spa circuit in the hotel
- Services of a tour representative

Organised by Preferred Travel Services. ABTA No. W3692. Atol No. 5537. Single supplements apply. Subject to availability.

For more information or to book, please call: 0116 279 3929 quote WEXP
or visit: www.preferredts.com/wexp

Singer is Miles ahead for a Wonder-ful surprise

Miles Hunt, second left, with Patricia and Kevin Guest and their son Cole. Picture: Durham Region

WONDER Stuff frontman Miles Hunt flew to Canada to surprise a fan at her 50th birthday party.

The Stourbridge rocker jetted out to Brooklin in Ontario to ensure Patricia Guest had a night to remember.

Her husband, Kevin Guest, a lifelong music aficionado, invited Miles to the private party at the Brooklin Pub to play an hour-long set last Friday.

Mr Guest reached out through Facebook and inquired about the chances of him taking part in the birthday surprise. He offered to cover the cost of a return flight from London and a four-night stay in Toronto.

It was ideal for the Black Country singer and songwriter who is currently researching a novel he is working on which is set in Canada.

The frontman performed for a crowd of about 50 upstairs at the Brooklin Pub on Baldwin Street, much to the surprise and delight of Mrs Guest, an estate agent. Mr and Mre Guest are both fans, the couple having seen The Wonder Stuff in Toronto in 1994 and also saw Miles perform solo in Michigan in 2007.

Journalist Brian McNair who was at the party, grew up with Mr Guest in Toronto and both now live in Brooklin. "I wasn't convinced this was actually going to happen until Kevin told me his plane had touched down in Toronto," said Mr McNair.

"It turned out to be an incredible night. The music was fantastic, as I expected, but I was surprised at how charming and engaging Miles was when he spoke to us after the show."

The Wonder Stuff and Ned's Atomic Dustbin are launching the Love From Stourbridge tour including two dates at Birmingam O2 Academy.

£155k target beaten in Isla treatment bid

Going to New York for treatment – Isla Austin, aged two, has been fighting cancer for more than a year

A FUNDRAISING bid for a young girl battling cancer has smashed its £155,000 target.

Isla Austin, aged two, has been fighting cancer for more than a year and her family launched the fundraising push in a bid to pay for experimental treatment in America.

In just eight weeks they have already topped £190,000. Now Isla, whose mother Anna,went to Dormston School in Sedgley, has been accepted onto the trial in New York.

Since being diagnosed on her first birthday, Isla has undergone chemotherapy, radiotherapy, a stem cell transplant, seven and a half hour surgery and immunotherapy.

A Facebook post by the Isla Austin Appeal says: "Thank you everyone we have smashed our target in eight weeks! It's staggering, overwhelming and beyond our wildest dreams. Our fundraisers have stepped up and shone for us, true heroes. Everyone that's donated you are wonderful and your generosity is breathtaking."

Pub attack after man misheard comments

A DRUNKEN bricklayer attacked another customer in a pub after mishearing comments made by the victim to a barmaid.

Mitchell Edwards took the law into his own hands when he wrongly believed that the pair were arguing, a judge heard.

But Darren Smith was actually apologising for an earlier incident that had resulted in him being banned from The Clifton in The Bull Ring, Sedgley, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

"He had been asked to leave and was standing at the end of the bar saying sorry for what had happened earlier when the defendant came up to him from nowhere," explained Mr Bernard Linnemann, prosecuting.

Punch

Mr Smith was felled by a punch and gashed his head as he hit the ground before the 26-year-old defendant grabbed hold of his clothes and dragged him across the floor of the pub before leaving.

The victim, who had suffered a brain injury when young, was taken to hospital where the head wound

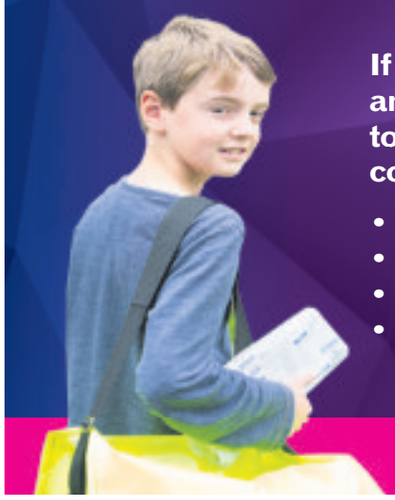
Report by John Scott

required six stitches. His attacker was identified from CCTV film showing him exiting The Clifton.

Mr Ranjit Sandhu, defending, declared: "These two men had never met before and this is a pub not usually used by the defendant. He had been drinking heavily and misread what was happening between the injured party and the member of the bar staff. He thought they were arguing."

Edwards from Park Road, Lower Gornal admitted the April 6 assault and was given an 18 month jail term suspended for a year and a half with 150 hours unpaid work, a three month night time curfew and £1,000 compensation to Mr Smith.

Recruiting
Reliable people to deliver This Chronicle Newspapers, Magazines and Leaflets.



If you are over 13 years of age and would like the opportunity to earn some extra money contact us with:

- YOUR NAME
- DATE OF BIRTH
- ADDRESS
- TELEPHONE NUMBER

Call 01902 319990 or email:
marie.darling@expressandstar.co.uk

In association with CHRONICLE
Xpress DISTRIBUTION

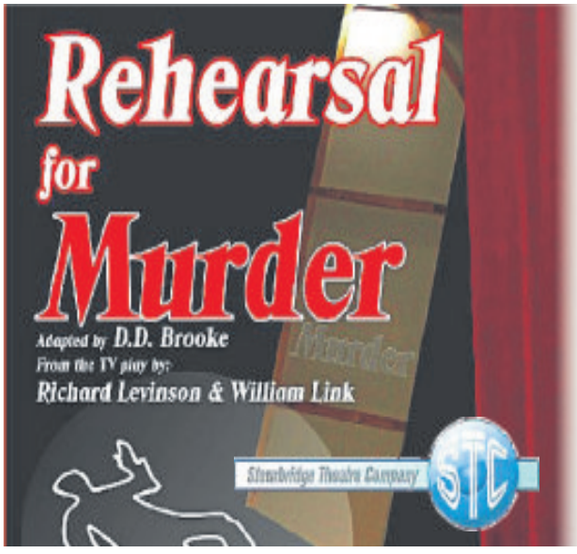
The Ticket

@TheTicket_Star

THE KITE RUNNER IS FLYING HIGH

INSIDE

MUSIC + THEATRE + TV GUIDE + PUZZLES



When his leading lady (and fiancée) Monica Welles is found dead from an apparent suicide after the opening night of her West End stage debut, playwright Alex Dennison is left heartbroken. On the first anniversary of her death, he gathers the cast and crew from that ill-fated night in the same West End theatre, ostensibly to read a new play he is working on, a mystery in which a famous actress is killed. As the reading progresses, the scenes seem to the cast to be uncomfortably close to actual encounters they might have had with Monica. When pressed, Alex finally reveals that he believes that Monica was murdered, and that someone at the theatre is her killer.....

Directed by **Sandra Griswold**

Stourbridge Town Hall 22nd - 24th March 2018 at 7.30pm

Tickets: £10.000 each Concessions £8.00

From; The French Deli, 1 Coventry Street, Stoubridge or Telephone 0333 666 or www.stourbridgetheatre.co.uk

ANTIQUE COLLECTORS & VINTAGE FAIR
UTTOXETER RACECOURSE
(SAT NAV ST14 8BD) A518 / A38 / SIGNPOSTED A50
SATURDAY/SUNDAY
10TH & 11TH MARCH
100 + STALLS INSIDE + OUTSIDE PITCHES
10AM - 4PM ADM.£1.50
CHILDREN FREE
PLENTY OF FREE PARKING
ANTIQUE FORUM
01782 393660 / 07921659798

BESCOT PROMOTIONS PRESENTS...
BESCOT CAR BOOT SALE
THURSDAY 8th March 2018
CAR BOOT SALE
FIRST 50 CAR BOOTS FREE Available from 8am
THURSDAYS
10:00AM - 2:00PM
WALSALL FOOTBALL CLUB WS14SA
£8 CAR £10 VAN 50p entrance fee
Tables are available for hire on request*
Bescot Promotions
www.bescotpromotions.co.uk
07875655875 / 07792676746

Look out for upcoming Easter events here.
To be apart of it please call Sarah Childs on 01384 353258

Beautiful moments of humour and joy

It's been called 'a spellbinding production'. And the contemporary cultural phenomenon that is The Kite Runner will make its debut at Birmingham's REP from Tuesday to March 24.

The performances follow an outstanding West End for the show, which is based on Khaled Hosseini's international bestselling novel.

Audiences can look forward to a haunting tale of friendship which spans cultures and continents and follows one man's journey to confront his past and find redemption.

The action centres on Afghanistan, a divided country on the verge of war and in which two childhood friends are about to be torn apart.

The scene is set on a beautiful afternoon in Kabul when the skies are full of the excitement and joy of a kite-flying tournament. But neither Hassan nor Amir can foresee the terrible incident which will shatter their lives forever.

The production features an impressive cast, including Ravi Aujla, Jo Ben Ayed, Raj Ghatak, Amiera Darwish and Rez Kabir.

Rez plays Mary in the story of youth, transgression and redemption.

She believes audiences will go away having learned much.

"Younger audiences will take something from it, an older generation will pick up on something else, but the great appeal of this play is the beautiful moments of joy and humour that exist in life. Everyone will be able to connect."

The play is brought to life by music created by musical director and composer Jonathan Girling.

He say: "Putting on a play always involves collaboration. The most important person is the director, who puts the team together, makes all the final decisions, and is the driving force behind the production.

"The rest of the creative team is made up of the writer, the set-designer, lighting designer, composer, movement director, sound designer, fight director and that's just the tip of the iceberg. There's a huge team of people that have made The Kite Runner happen.

As the composer, the script and director are always my primary points of reference when thinking about the music. What does the script say to me (what sounds, tunes, emotions, textures or colours does it make me imagine?), and then what does the director want to do with the play?

"Once I've spent some time with the director and script, I'll start working on ideas, listing key scenes and moments in the drama. These initial ideas – normally written notes on traditional manuscript, or an instrument or two – are then introduced into the rehearsal room, and that's where the real magic starts to happen."

Jonathan says with the first version of the show, The Kite Runner had a great singer whose voice inspired him to think about writing songs to underpin some key emotional scenes. After he'd written the songs, and taught him the music, they rehearsed them into each scene to see how they worked. Tabla was also an important addition.

Flying high – it's based on the novel by Khaled Hosseini

"The next most important person for me in The Kite Runner is the near-omnipresent tabla player. The tabla – Indian drums you'll see at the front of the stage – are mentioned in the script, but the use of tabla music presented me with my biggest challenge. I hadn't researched Indian music since I was at university, so I enlisted the help of the Asian Music Network (Viram Jasani) and Emeritus Professor of Afghan Music & Ethonomusicology at Goldsmiths, John Baily.

"Viram helped me find a tabla player – Hanif Kahn – and John took me through the (very subtle!) differences between Afghan, Indian and Pakistan classical music.

"With their initial help and oversight, Hanif and I started on a five-week exploration of collaborative creativity that produced all of the tabla music in The Kite Runner. Hanif couldn't read western notation, and I couldn't understand how on earth he played such complex rhythms, so we initially just had to find a way of communicating (mostly in gestures, sounds and taps!).

The most important person is the director, who puts the team together

"In the end, some of the rhythms are original Jonathan – as in Assef's first appearance – and others are me honing and shaping traditional Indian rhythms into music cues useful for the drama, perfectly executed by Hanif on the stage."

As Jonathan and Hanif introduced more and more tabla music into the show, things started to take shape. But the one thing Jonathan never interfered with was Hanif's pre-show performance, in which he demonstrates his virtuosity.

The Kite Runner also features plenty of songs. Jonathan adds: "The songs themselves are sung live but off-stage, hidden from the audience. The singers can see the action, but we can't see them.

"I experimented with a number of ragas – Indian classical scales, akin to Western major and minor scales – to reinforce the authentic nature of The Kite Runner. In the end, the songs were based on Raag Malkauns, one of the oldest Indian ragas, each one a variation on the other (apart from the female 'wailing' song).

"The raga contains a haunting, contemplative character that lends itself well to the play."

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

The Globe of Death

Daredevil biker stunts at contemporary circus show

After a sell-out West End run and nationwide tour, Cirque Berserk! the UK's biggest theatre-circus spectacular is coming back to the West Midlands.

After thrilling audiences at Birmingham Rep last year, the daring troupe will be at the New Alexandra Theatre from March 14 to 18 with evening and matinee shows.

Combining contemporary cirque-style artistry with adrenaline-fuelled stunt action, Cirque Berserk! is a spectacle including the famous motorcycle Globe of Death that sees four motorcyclists reaching speeds of over 60mph within the confines of a locked steel sphere.

Audiences can also experience exhilarating acts featuring more than 30 jugglers, acrobats, aerialists, dancers, drummers and daredevil stuntpeople.

For further details see www.atgtickets.com/shows/cirque-berserk/new-alexandra-theatre-birmingham online.

SALTWELLS INN "Good Food @ Great Prices"
2 MEALS FOR £10
ALL DAY, EVERY DAY! (Selected menu)
STEAK & SIZZLER NIGHTS ALL AT DISCOUNTED RATES
FROM 5PM FRIDAY
Served with Chips, Mushrooms and Onion Rings! From 5 pm
x 2 Sirloins for £10.00
x 2 T-Bones for £20.00
FREE Soup Starter with every Carvery
Mon - Fri 12 - 3pm
£4.50
Sunday Roast £5.95 inc dessert 12-5pm
Homemade Lunch Time Specials from £3.95
15% OFF Saltwells Golden Ticket coupon
excluding Mother's Day and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer
KIDS MEALS ONLY £2.95
GREAT MEALS & A HOMELY ATMOSPHERE FOR YOU & A PLAYGROUND WITH £2.95 MEALS FOR THE KIDS.
There is always something to do for the family at Saltwells
Tel: 01384 569224 www.saltwellsinn.co.uk
Saltwells Inn, Saltwells Lane, DY5 1AX

Fatherhood brings a reBrand for comic

Bad boy of comedy Russell Brand will return to Birmingham's Symphony Hall tonight (Thursday) with his new show, Re:Birth.

The show came about after Brand became a parent, which he says poses the question: "How can you be a dangerous, edgy, rebel with a tiny little daughter?"

Brand brought the show to Birmingham late last year – and it was evident that much had changed since his previous tours.

He admits he's changed considerably. He told one interviewer: "Yes, I'm less mad now. I was a needy person. I mean, that condition abides, but I manage it better now, I think."

Brand's show features his observations on Donald Trump, fatherhood and his frequently turbulent relationship with the media.

When he last visited Birmingham, he spoke at length about a disastrous interview with Jeremy Paxman and also showed that he has been willing to learn from his mistakes.

Brand says much of the change in his life came about when he met his wife, Laura Gallacher. He told one interviewer that it had changed his approach to the way he lives – and also to money.

"I'm lucky because I have been dirty poor and now I'm stinky rich – not that rich actually, I gave away a lot. But it doesn't make that much difference. I am in a position of privilege, there's no question about it. I am not trying to motivate anyone into trying to get their hands on a stack of cash, it's more like a motivation to recognise that you probably already have what you need and, while you can purchase pleasure with a big stack of cash, you cannot purchase happiness."

delhi divan INDIAN CUISINE
Come and Treat your Mom with us
Sunday 11th March
6 COURSE MEAL
1 option from each below
Appetiser
Starter: 7 Choices to choose from
Main Course: 5 Choices to choose from
Side Dish: 3 Choices to choose from
Sundries: 7 Choices to choose from
Finish with Tea/Coffee
£14.95pp
Mums eat free when booking table of 4 or more
Book Now to Avoid Disappointment
OPENING HOURS:
Sunday-Thursday: 5.30pm till 11.30pm
Friday-Saturday: 5.30pm till 1.00am
FREE DELIVERY:
within 3 mile radius order over £10.00
We aim to deliver within 45 minutes
WELCOME TO BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS.
148 High Street, Brierley Hill, DY5 3BP
t: 01384 77 150 | w:delhidivanbrierleyhill.co.uk

A razor-sharp show from WOS

You'll never trust a barber again – the macabre tale of Sweeney Todd (played by Richard Poynton, pictured) is coming to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday. One of Stephen Sondheim's most powerful scores, this musical concerns the infamous cut-throat barber who took bloody revenge against those who wronged him in 19th century London. Don't have a pie for dinner. Walsall Operatic Society are on stage at 7.30pm plus Saturday matinee.

Symphony orchestra play Bowie favourites

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra present an orchestral tribute to The Music of David Bowie at the Symphony Hall tomorrow (Friday). Brent Havens will conduct the CBSO, joined by a rock band and West End star Tony Vincent, for new interpretations of such Bowie classics as Life on Mars, Heroes, Ashes to Ashes, Ziggy Stardust and Space Oddity. New York-based singer Tony Vincent was in the Broadway cast of Rent and went on to play the lead role of Galileo Figaro in Queen musical We Will Rock You in London, performing Bohemian Rhapsody with Queen during 2002's Party at the Palace. He went on to originate the role of St Jimmy in Green Day musical American Idiot. Before the concert, young musicians will be performing music inspired by Bowie as part of CBSO's Project Remix. See thsh.co.uk for details.

SATURDAY'S TV MARCH 10

CHOICE

Janet Leigh

Hitchcock's Shower Scene: 78/52
(BBC2, 9pm)
Premiere. Documentary taking a look at the enduring legacy of the infamous and iconic shower scene in Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho - in which Janet Leigh's character Marion Crane is stabbed to death - a segment that arguably changed the course of world cinema. The sequence took a week to film and used up a quarter of the movie's entire production schedule, requiring 78 set-ups and 52 cuts to achieve.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Classic Mary Berry. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** MasterChef. (R) **2.15** MasterChef. (R) **3.15** Coast and Country Auctions. **4.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. France v England (Kick-off 4.45pm).

7.00 BBC News.

7.10 Regional Programme.

7.20 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present as famous faces take part in the general knowledge quiz in which they try to come up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public. Contestants are Bob Harris, Chris Difford, Kerry Godliman, Miles Jupp, Jenny Eclair, Linda Robson, Debbie McGee and Angelos Epithemiou.

8.10 Casualty. Jac Naylor arrives in the ED and sets an ultimatum. CEO Serena Campbell wants the Rage in Resus blog to be shut down by the end of the day or its author – and Ethan – will be fired.

9.00 Troy: Fall of a City. Achilles' shock attack on Troy's ally Cilicia devastates the Trojans and puts the spotlight on Helen. Meanwhile, Andromache receives both good and bad news, and a bitter dispute erupts between Agamemnon and Achilles. The fourth episode of David Farr's Ancient Greek historical drama based on the Trojan War and the love affair between Paris and Helen, starring Louis Hunter, David Gyasi, Bella Dayne, Chloe Pirrie, Johnny Harris, Lemogang Tsipa, David Threlfall, Frances O'Connor and Jamie-Lee Money.

10.00 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester United v Liverpool at Old Trafford and Chelsea v Crystal Palace at Stamford Bridge.

11.45 Film: A Few Best Men. (2011) An Englishman proposes to his Australian girlfriend, but the antics of his three best men turn the wedding into a disaster. Comedy, starring Xavier Samuel.

1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 The Wonder of Animals. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** The Dengineers. **8.00** Absolute Genius: Monster Builds. **8.30** Beyond Bionic. **9.00** Robot Wars. (R) **10.00** Gorilla Family and Me. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Cats v Dogs: Which Is Best? (R) **1.00 Film:** The Caine Mutiny. (1954) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.30** Me and My Dog: The Ultimate Contest. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** Flog It! (R)

6.00 Hugh's Wild West. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall discovers how the people and animals of Dartmoor live alongside each other, visiting an ancient hill farm housing dozens of house martins and swallows.

7.00 Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby. Giles Coren and Monica Galetti visit Oman's Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar, the highest five-star hotel in the Middle East and a resort blending local tradition with modern tastes. (R)

8.00 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. The naturalist explores the extremes of birth in the animal kingdom, explaining why the giant panda gives birth to the smallest babies of any existing mammal.

8.30 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring and the platoon welcome the first American troops to Walmington-on-Sea, but Anglo-US relations become strained. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)

9.00 Film: Hitchcock's Shower Scene: 78/52. (2017) Premiere. Documentary looking at the enduring legacy of the iconic shower scene in Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho, a segment that arguably changed the course of world cinema.

10.30 QI XL. Extended version of the quiz in which Deirdre O'Kane, Richard Osman and David Mitchell join Alan Davies to answer Sandi Toksvig's questions on the "Occupations and Offices" theme.

11.15 Film: Dial M for Murder. (1954) A tennis player's plan to arrange the death of his socialite wife goes wrong when she kills her would-be assassin. Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, with Ray Milland and Grace Kelly.

12.55 Film: The Lady Vanishes. (1938) **2.30** Civilisations. (R) **3.25** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Bagel and Becky Show. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R) **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.20** Dancing on Ice. (R) **1.15** ITV News; Weather. **1.25** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Ireland v Scotland (Kick-off 2.15pm). **4.30** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R)

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 New You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring a fire extinguisher that explodes in a builder's face and a dog that looks like Andrew Lloyd Webber.

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The entertainment variety show continues, with James Corden taking time out from his busy schedule across the Atlantic to join the Geordie duo as this week's star guest announcer. Plus, there is more spoof mystery as Ant and Dec once again put their OBEs to use as part of a task force of celebrity secret agents with honours. Stephen Mulhern is in Reading for the latest edition of In for a Penny, and in celebration of Andrew Lloyd Webber's upcoming 70th birthday, the End of the Show Show features some of his best-loved numbers in the studio.

8.30 The Voice UK. Tom Jones, Will.i.am, Olly Murs and Jennifer Hudson take their places on the spinning chairs once again, as the contest edges closer to its conclusion with the final battle round.

9.50 Piers Morgan's Life Stories. The host talks to comedian Jim Davidson about his life, from presenting The Generation Game and Big Break to alcohol addiction and domestic violence allegations. Last in the series.

10.40 ITV News; Weather.

11.05 Film: 2 Fast 2 Furious. (2003)

1.05 Jackpot247. **3.00** Babushka. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Winter Paralympics Live. **8.00** Winter Paralympics Breakfast. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.25** Coast vs Country. (R) **3.25** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.30** Crufts Extra with Alan and Clare. **5.30** Channel 4 News.

6.00 Winter Paralympics Today. Lee McKenzie and Jonnie Peacock are at Snow Centre in Hemel Hempstead to present action from day two of the Games in PyeongChang, South Korea, including the men's and women's downhill skiiing, and Great Britain v Norway in wheelchair curling. With analysis from Charlotte Evans and Jade Etherington.

7.00 Crufts 2018. Clare Balding presents live coverage of the judging of the Vulnerable Breeds, Utility and Hound Groups and highlights of the Agility and Flyball competitions. Plus, a selection of reports involving rescue dogs, taking a look at the renovation of Manchester and Cheshire Dogs' Home following a fire and revealing why foreign rescue dog charities are growing in popularity. Plus, training tips with Carolyn Meneteith and advice on canine health from Noel Fitzpatrick.

9.00 Film: 45 Years. (2015) Premiere. A woman prepares to celebrate her 45th wedding anniversary, but one week beforehand, her husband receives a letter revealing that the body of his previous partner has been found frozen in the Swiss Alps. The message exposes the cracks in their relationship. Drama, starring Charlotte Rampling, Tom Courtenay and Geraldine James.

10.50 First Dates. A woman keen to settle down and start a family has a date with an adventurer who has climbed the Matterhorn and swum oceans, while a 73-year-old has her first date for 44 years. (R)

11.55 The Inbetweeners. Will is unhappy about being forced to take a work experience job at a garage due to a mix-up that sees Neil joining a newspaper. (R)

12.30 Winter Paralympics Live. **5.00** Food Unwrapped. (R) **5.30** Streetmate. (R) **5.55** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **3.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **4.05** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.00** The Secret Life of Kittens. (R)

6.00 Cruising with Jane McDonald. Traversing the Baltic on board the Viking Sky, the presenter takes full advantage of the ship's amenities. Her first stop is Tallinn in Estonia, a medieval town with much ancient architecture. Next up is St Petersburg in Russia, where Jane heads to the Hermitage Museum, hoping to spot the cats that traditionally live in the basement. The third stop is Helsinki in Finland, where Jane meets a woman whose ambition is to kiss a brown bear. Finally, the ship pulls into the Swedish capital of Stockholm. (R)

7.00 Brunel's Britain: Master of Bridges. In a two-part series, Rob Bell explores the work of Victorian engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel, exploring his complex personality as well as his prolific achievements. (R)

8.00 Brunel's Britain: King of the Sea. Rob Bell concludes his two-part documentary series by telling the story of Brunel's two masterpieces of ship design, the SS Great Britain and the SS Great Eastern. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Aston Villa v Wolverhampton Wanderers and Cardiff City v Birmingham City.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces action from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including AFC Wimbledon v Oxford United, Blackburn Rovers v Blackpool and Coventry City v Barnet.

10.30 Jane McDonald & Friends. A mixture of some favourite songs, performed with the singer's own band and dancers. In this edition, Jane is accompanied by Alexander O'Neal and Shane Filan. (R)

11.25 Celebrity 5 Go Motorhoming. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Cowboy Builders. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** House Busters. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Lost Kingdoms of Central America **8.00** Masters of the Pacific Coast: The Tribes of the American Northwest **9.00** Below the Surface **10.30** Roy Orbison: One of the Lonely Ones **11.30** TOTP2: Wham! Special **12.00 Film:** Janis: Little Girl Blue (2015) **1.30** The Joy of Rachmaninoff **2.30** Masters of the Pacific Coast: The Tribes of the American Northwest **3.30** TOTP2: Wham! Special **4.00** Close

ITV2

11.25 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **1.00** Take Me Out: 10th Anniversary Special **2.00** Catchphrase Mother's Day Special **3.05 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **4.10** FYI Daily **4.15 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **4.55 Film:** Uncle Buck (1989) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00 Film:** Uncle Buck (1989) **6.45 Film:** Jack the Giant Slayer (2013) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55 Film:** Jack the Giant Slayer (2013) **9.00 Film:** The Expendables (2010) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** The Expendables (2010) **11.05** Family Guy **12.05** American Dad! **12.55** Action Team **2.00** Ibiza Weekender **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.50 Agatha Christie's Marple **2.55 Film:** Columbo: The Murder of a Rock Star (1991) **4.55** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.05** The Good Karma Hospital **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Sandown. Coverage from Sandown Park and Wolverhampton. **4.00 Film:** Battle of Britain (1969) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10 Film:** Battle of Britain (1969) **6.40** Football's Greatest: David Beckham **7.00** Storage Wars **7.55** The Celebrity Chase **9.00 Film:** The Chronicles of Riddick (2004) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** The Chronicles of Riddick (2004) **11.20 Film:** This Is the End (2013) **12.20** FYI Daily **12.25 Film:** This Is the End (2013) **1.30** The Sweeney **2.25** The Protectors **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.05 Film: Stuart Little 2 (2002) **12.40** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **1.00** The Big Bang Theory **4.00** The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer **5.15** Extreme Cake Makers **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.30 Film:** Captain America: The First Avenger (2011) **9.00 Film:** Salt (2010) **11.05** Gogglebox **12.05** Naked Attraction **1.15** Tattoo Fixers **2.20** Gogglebox **3.15** Timeless **4.00** How I Met Your Mother **4.40** Don't Tell the Bride

SUNDAY'S TV MARCH 11

CHOICE

Bruce Forsyth

Sir Bruce: A Celebration (BBC1, 9pm)
Tess Daly hosts a special tribute to the veteran entertainer, who died in August last year. Filmed at the London Palladium, a variety of famous faces join Brucie's family, friends, fellow entertainers and broadcasters to celebrate his life in a variety show featuring songs, dance numbers and on-stage homages by guest with whom he shared a special connection. Includes music by Dave Arch and his Strictly Come Dancing band and vocalists, along with the BBC Concert Orchestra.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** BBC News; Weather. **12.30** MasterChef. (R) **1.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **1.55** Songs of Praise. **2.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Wales v Italy (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.05** Earth's Natural Wonders. (R)

6.05 BBC News.

6.20 Regional Programme.

6.30 Countryfile. The team heads to the Scottish Lowlands to shed light on rural issues in the Lothians and the Borders. Steve Brown heads out on the trail of the elusive mud snail, which plays a crucial role in the region's ecosystem. Anita Rani cycles along the sands of the East Lothian coast on a "fat bike', which has larger than normal tyres to avoid disturbing natural habitats, and Matt Baker reveals how the people of St Abbs fought against the odds to keep their lifeboat service running. Plus, Adam Henson visits Edinburgh's Agricultural College, where researchers are working to find a way to fix the methane problem caused by the estimated 10 million cattle in the UK.

7.30 Hold the Sunset. Edith confronts a ghost from the past when the house is broken into at night, while tensions rise between Roger and Wendy. Guest starring James Cosmo (Game of Thrones).

8.00 Call the Midwife. As the nurses and midwives prepares for Sister Monica Joan's birthday, they face an influx of new patients when a nearby maternity home suddenly closes. Last in the series.

9.00 Sir Bruce: A Celebration. Tess Daly pays tribute to the veteran entertainer, who died in August last year, with a special variety programme celebrating his life filmed at the London Palladium.

10.05 BBC News.

10.25 Regional Programme.

10.35 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents highlights of the day's two Premier League matches – Arsenal v Watford at the Emirates Stadium and Bournemouth v Tottenham Hotspur at the Vitality Stadium.

11.35 Film: Fright Night. (2011)

1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 Coast. (R) **6.55** A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.15** The Instant Gardener. (R) **8.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **11.45** Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives. (R) **2.00** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.45 Film:** Laura. (1944) Murder mystery, with Dana Andrews and Gene Tierney. **4.10** Back in Time for Tea. (R) **5.10** The World's Most Extraordinary Homes. (R)

6.10 Film: Deep Impact. (1998) A TV reporter investigating a presidential misdemeanour stumbles on evidence that a comet is on a collision course with Earth, threatening the future of the human race. Meanwhile, an astronaut prepares to lead his crew on a do-or-die mission to intercept the danger. Sci-fi drama, starring Robert Duvall, Tea Leoni, Morgan Freeman and Elijah Wood.

8.00 Top Gear. Matt LeBlanc and Chris Harris take second-hand sports cars on a road trip across the Japanese island of Honshu, while Rory Reid explores Tokyo's weirdest car-based subculture.

9.00 Life and Death Row: The Mass Execution. A look at capital punishment through the eyes of young people whose lives have been shaped by it, including interviews from those on death row. Last in the series.

10.20 The Mash Report. Nish Kumar and a cast of comedy correspondents present this satirical and surreal take on the news during July 2017. (R)

10.50 Top Gear: Extra Gear. Rory Reid visits a secret stash of cars in Japan, and Chris Harris hits the track in a Nissan 370Z Nismo. With guests comedian Matt Richardson and racing driver Jann Mardenborough.

11.15 Women's Six Nations Highlights. Action from the fourth round of fixtures – France v England at the Stade des Alpes in Grenoble, Wales v Italy at the Principality Stadium and Ireland v Scotland at Donnybrook.

11.45 Sign Zone: Question Time. Topical debate from Westminster, chaired by David Dimbleby. (R)

12.45 Immigration: Who Should We Let In? – Panorama. (R) **1.15** Holby City. (R) **2.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Spy School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** The Voice UK. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. (R) **2.00** Britain's Brightest Family. (R) **2.30** Catchphrase Mother's Day Special. (R) **3.30** Tipping Point. (R) **4.30** ITV News; Weather. **4.45** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R)

6.00 Dancing on Ice – The Final. Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby introduce the grand final of the competitive figure-skating contest, as the final three celebrities and the professional partners once again take to the ice as they seek to claim the title of Champion of the Rink. As ever, Jayne Torvill, Christopher Dean, Jason Gardiner and Ashley Banjo form the judging panel, assessing each couple's skills and ultimately delivering the scores that will combine with the results of a public vote to determine which couple will emerge victorious. Plus, Torvill and Dean also put on their skates for one triumphant showcase performance, drawing the show to a close. Last in the series.

8.00 Endeavour. Morse investigates the disappearance of a teacher from a secretive school, while Thursday is determined to find a link between Eddie Nero and his murder case. Last in the series.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (R)

11.15 Six Nations Highlights. Jill Douglas presents action from the fourth round of fixtures, featuring Ireland v Scotland, France v England and Wales v Italy.

12.15 100 Year Old Driving School. (R) **12.40** Marcella. (R) **1.30** Jackpot247. **3.00** Take on the Twisters. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **6.35** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **7.00** Tennis: Tie Break Tens. **8.00** Winter Paralympics Breakfast. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie's Quick & Easy Food. (R) **1.05** The Simpsons. (R) **1.35** The Simpsons. (R) **2.05** The Simpsons. (R) **2.35** The Simpsons. (R) **3.05** The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer. (R) **4.25** Crufts Extra with Alan and Clare. **5.30** Channel 4 News.

6.00 Winter Paralympics Today. Lee McKenzie and Jonnie Peacock are at Snow Centre in Hemnel Hempstead to present action from day two of the Games in PyeongChang, South Korea. Great Britain's Kelly Gallacher and Scott Meenagh were medal hopes in the Super-G and 15km cross-country respectively, and Team GB had curling matches against Switzerland and Finland.

7.00 Crufts 2018: Best in Show. Clare Balding presents live coverage of the dog show as an overall champion is chosen from the six finalists. Plus, highlights of the Agility and Flyball finals and the gundog group judging, and a look back at the finalists' journey through the competition. Noel Fitzpatrick selects his favourite moments from this year's contest and there is a report on the benefits of raw dog food.

9.00 Homeland. Carrie's mission to free the 200 imprisoned members of the intelligence community looks up as she follows a new lead, while Saul's situation goes from bad to worse. Espionage drama, starring Claire Danes and Mandy Patinkin.

10.00 The Last Leg Winter Paralympic Special. Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker round-up action from the 2018 Winter Paralympics in Pyeongchang, with help from Noel Fielding and special guest Paralympians.

11.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words-and-numbers quiz, as Jon Richardson and David Mitchell take on guest captain Joe Wilkinson and Roisin Conaty. (R)

12.00 Married at First Sight. (R) **1.00** The Inbetweeners. (R) **1.30** Winter Paralympics Live. Day three from PyeongChang, South Korea.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Mofy. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Simon. (R) **6.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.45** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.55** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **8.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.35** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.55** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.10** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.25** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.40** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Britain's Greatest Bridges. **12.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.15 Film:** Open Season 2. (2008) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Joel McHale. **3.45 Film:** Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2. (2013) **5.25 Film:** Journey 2: The Mysterious Island. (2012)

6.25 5 News Update.

6.30 Film: Journey 2: The Mysterious Island. (2012) Concluded.

7.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Max and Steve head to London to try to recover more than £21,000 in court costs. Aron and Cona chase almost £7,000 owed after a debtor failed to repay a loan to her ex-partner. (R)

8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. The debt collectors take action to serve a writ issued for the organiser of a music festival. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: Olympus Has Fallen. (2013) A disgraced secret service agent tries to redeem himself when terrorists take control of the White House. Action thriller, starring Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart and Morgan Freeman.

10.00 5 News Update.

10.05 Film: Olympus Has Fallen. (2013) Concluded.

11.15 Film: Rise of the Krays. (2015) Biopic of the gangster brothers, charting their rise from amateur boxers to becoming the most feared criminals in London's underworld. With Kevin Leslie and Simon Cotton.

1.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Cowboy Builders. (R) **4.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** House Busters. (R) **5.35** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Ancient Greece: The Greatest Show on Earth **9.00 Film:** Michael Jackson's Journey from Motown to Off the Wall (2016) **10.30** Sings Motown **11.30** I'm Not In Love: The Story of 10cc **12.30** The Art of France **1.30** Smile! The Nation's Family Album **2.30** Sings Motown **3.30** The Beauty of Anatomy **4.00** Close

ITV2

12.20 The Voice UK **1.45 Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50 Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **3.30 Film:** Dirty Dancing 2: Havana Nights (2004) **4.30** FYI Daily **4.35 Film:** Dirty Dancing 2: Havana Nights (2004) **5.15 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **6.15** FYI Daily **6.20 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **7.10 Film:** Gravity (2013) **8.15** FYI Daily **8.20 Film:** Gravity (2013) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30 Film:** Zack and Miri Make a Porno (2008) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35 Film:** Zack and Miri Make a Porno (2008) **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.55 A Touch of Frost **3.55** Lewis **6.00** The Durrells **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** Joanna Lumley's Trans-Siberian Adventure **10.00** An Audience with Victoria Wood **11.10** Lewis **1.10** Life of Crime **2.00** Blue Murder **3.20** Rising Damp

ITV4

12.20 Pawn Stars **1.50 Film:** Battle of Britain (1969) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55 Film:** Battle of Britain (1969) **4.30 Film:** You Only Live Twice (1967) **5.35** FYI Daily **5.40 Film:** You Only Live Twice (1967) **6.50** Hornblower **9.00 Film:** Firefox (1982) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Firefox (1982) **11.45 Film:** Falling Down (1993) **12.50** FYI Daily **12.55 Film:** Falling Down (1993) **2.00** River Monsters **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen

E4

12.00 The Big Bang Theory: Mother's Day **4.30** The Goldbergs **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.00** Young Sheldon **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.55 Film:** I, Robot (2004) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00 Film:** The World's End (2013) **12.10** The Big Bang Theory **1.10** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.10** Timeless

Film4

11.00 Magic in the Water (1995) **1.00** A League of Their Own (1992) **3.40** We Bought a Zoo (2011) **6.05** The Karate Kid (2010) **9.00** The Mechanic (2011) **11.00** Captive (2015) **1.00** American Hustle (2013) **3.45** Close

Star Reader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Your Chronicle in association with Just Go! Holidays

South Wales Gardens
& the Royal Mint Experience

Departing Sunday 15 Apr
from Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return coach travel
- ✔ 4 nights DBB at the Mercure Swansea Hotel
- ✔ Excursions to the Royal Mint Experience, Mumbles, Aberglasney Gardens, National Botanic Garden of Wales, Tredegar House & Cardiff

5 Days by Coach — now only £300

Blackpool, the Lakes
& the Settle to Carlisle Railway

Departing Monday 16 Apr
from Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return coach travel
- ✔ 4 nights DBB at the Chequers Plaza Hotel, Blackpool
- ✔ Entertainment some nights
- ✔ Heritage train journey on the Settle to Carlisle Railway
- ✔ Excursion to the Lake District (Kendal & Bowness-on-Windermere)

5 Days by Coach — now only £230

Edinburgh
& the Firth of Forth Railway

Departing Sunday 22 Apr
from Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return coach travel
- ✔ 4 nights DBB at the Bruce Hotel, East Kilbride
- ✔ Heritage train journey on the Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway
- ✔ Falkirk Wheel boat trip
- ✔ Excursions to Edinburgh, Loch Lomond & the Falkirk Wheel

5 Days by Coach — now only £275

Liverpool
Cilla & the Beatles

Departing Monday 7 May
from Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return coach travel
- ✔ 4 nights DBB at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool (all meals buffet style)
- ✔ Guided city tour of Liverpool
- ✔ Ferry trip on the River Mersey
- ✔ Excursion to Southport

5 Days by Coach — now only £270

Coach package holidays are subject to Just Go! Holidays terms and conditions which are based on the Bonded Coach Holiday Group Trading Charter. Tours offered subject to availability. Errors and omissions excepted. Prices shown are per person, based on two people sharing a dbl/twin room. Single supplements apply.

For more information or to book, please call: 03332 341 875 Quote JGRT
033 numbers are free within inclusive minutes packages otherwise standard rates apply.
or visit us online at justgoholidays.com/RT

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, March 8, 2018

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Deadly Daycare, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A divorcee suspects nursery staff of mistreating her young daughter. When the girl's increasingly awkward behaviour arouses suspicion, the mother plants a hidden camera on the premises and discovers why the owner may hold a grudge against her. Thriller, starring Kayla Ewell, Christy Carlson Romano and Bryce Johnson. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2014)

TUESDAY

Missing Daughter, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A couple hire a nanny to care for their adopted daughter, but the woman turns out to be someone from the husband's past intent on wrecking their marriage and lives. Thriller, starring Wes Brown, Austin Highsmith, Erin Cahill and Valerie Azlynn. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2017)

WEDNESDAY

Framed for Murder: A Fixer Upper Mystery, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A renovator working on a 19th-century home suspects foul play when the resident of the house next door is found dead. Light-hearted mystery, starring Jewel Kilcher. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2017)

The Artist, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.45pm

The Artist, BBC1, 11.45pm
A 1920s movie actor gives an actress her big break, but his career suffers with the advent of sound. Oscar-winning silent drama, starring Jean Dujardin and Berenice Bejo. (2011)

THURSDAY

Fatal Defense, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman signs up for self-defence classes. However, her handsome instructor soon develops a frightening obsession with her. Thriller, with Ashley Scott. (2017)

FRIDAY

Shanghai Knights, BBC1, 11.05pm
A Chinese sheriff and a reformed bandit hunt for a killer on the murky streets of Victorian London. Martial arts comedy sequel, starring Jackie Chan, Owen Wilson and Aidan Gillen. (2003)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Getting the inside story of a terrifying time for Britain

Over the space of four months in spring and summer last year, four terrorist attacks took place in the UK that would change the lives of hundreds of people forever.

This 90-minute documentary, featuring accounts from witnesses and members of the emergency services who were first on the scene, tells the dramatic story of each attack, remembering those who lost their lives and hearing from those who survived.

The atrocities began in on March 22, when Khalid Masood drove a hire car across Westminster Bridge in Central London, killing four pedestrians – Kurt Cochran, Leslie Rhodes, Aysha Frade and Andreea Cristea – and injuring dozens more.

After crashing his vehicle into railings close to Westminster Tube station, Masood ran into Parliament Square and fatally stabbed police officer Keith Palmer, who was posthumously awarded the George Medal, the second highest award for gallantry 'not in the face of the enemy'.

The attack, which lasted just 82 seconds, came to an end when Masood was fatally shot in the chest by an armed officer.

Exactly two months later, 22 people were killed when suicide bomber Salman Abedi detonated a homemade device laden with metal nuts as shrapnel in the lobby of Manchester Arena at the end of an Ariana Grande pop concert.

More than 200 people were injured in the deadliest terror attack on British soil since the 7/7 bombings in London in 2005.

The youngest victim, Saffie Roussos, was killed after becoming separated from her mum and sister at the venue. She was just eight years old.

Terror struck again in the capital the following month when three men drove a van into pedestrians on London Bridge before getting out and running into Borough Market.

Rachid Redouane, Khuram Butt and Youssef Zaghba – who were all wearing fake explosive vests – started stabbing people with long knives as horrified revellers ran away and tried to barricade themselves inside bars and restaurants.

Eight people were killed, with armed police shooting the three attackers dead just eight minutes after the first emergency calls are made.

Then, just 16 days later, another man, Makram Ali, died and several other people were injured when a van was driven into a group of Muslim worshippers outside a mosque in Finsbury Park, North London.

The vehicle hit pedestrians as they are leaving Ramadan night prayers around midnight.

Dad-of-four Darren Osborne, 47, from Cardiff, was subsequently charged with terrorism-related murder and attempted murder.

He was jailed for life at Woolwich Crown Court last month.

Last year has been dubbed 'Britain's Year Of Terror', and although the country still lives under the shadow of these attacks, this touching documentary shows there is hope.

Four Days That Shook Britain, Thursday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

The Repair Shop
BBC2, 6.30pm
New series. The return of the programme in which experts try to restore family heirlooms and treasured possessions to their former glories. In the first edition, Steven Fletcher tackles an intricate Boulle-work clock that hasn't ticked for more than 15 years, while soft toy restorers Julie Tatchell and Amanda Middleditch take on a threadbare wheeled elephant. Plus, woodwork specialist William Kirk gets to grips with one of the show's oldest-ever assignments in the form of a 300-year-old Georgian desk that is showing its age.

TUESDAY

Back in Time for Tea
BBC2, 8pm
We've come to the end of this social experiment, so inevitably the Ellis family reflect on their time-travelling adventure over the past few weeks. They explore how the legacy of 100 years of history lives on in the northern diet today. Lesley and Sara Cox visit a Liverpool bakery, and sisters Caitlin and Freya examine how recent changes on Manchester's Curry Mile affect peoples' evolving relationship with flavour. Finally Sara and northern chef Rob Owen Brown prepare a celebration meal.

WEDNESDAY

Saving the British Bulldog
BBC1, 9pm
The British bulldog is an iconic animal. It appears on memorabilia connected to our nation, and yet it's in trouble - and it's all our fault. Well, sort of. An obsession with creating the ëperfect' look for these beloved dogs has caused them to be over bred for years, resulting in serious health problems. At the start of the year, vets launched a nationwide campaign urging prospective dog owners to think twice about buying flat-faced breeds such as bulldogs. In this documentary, comedian, actress and all-round dog-lover Catherine Tate finds out more about the issue, examining the latest scientific research, which suggests controversial ways to help the breed, and ask a Kennel Club representative if they're doing enough to lend a hand.

The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story
BBC2, 9pm
Former Glee star Darren Criss continues to shine in this compelling slice of fact-based Miami vice centring on Andrew Cunanan. This week, TV personality and entrepreneur Marilyn Miglin returns home from a business trip to discover that her husband, Chicago real estate tycoon Lee Miglin, is missing. The police are quickly on the case to piece together the events, while Marilyn shapes the media story. Fans of MASH should look out for Mike Farrell in a supporting role, while Transparent star Judith Light lends able support.

Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago, Friday, BBC2, 9pm

THURSDAY

Still Game
BBC1, 9.30pm
The news that the local undertaker has died and a creepy replacement has moved into town causes much commotion among the Clansman regulars. Nobody quite knows what to make of the new arrival, with Isa spreading stories that he could be the Grim Reaper himself. And despite their initial bravado, Jack and Victor are spooked when the man himself turns up in the pub, so they decide to find out who this mysterious new figure really is. Comedy, written by and starring Ford Kiernan and Greg Hemphill, with Jane McCarry, Bruce Morton, Gavin Mitchell and Sanjeev Kohli.

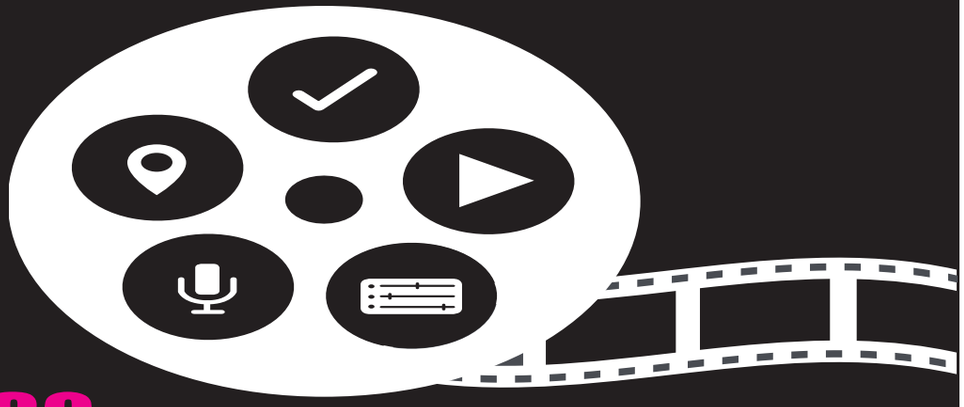
FRIDAY

Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago
BBC2, 9pm
Last year, Debbie McGee showed off her twinkle toes on Strictly Come Dancing, but her feet are going to take even more punishment in this new series, which sees her and six other celebrities putting on their backpacks and walking boots to tackle the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage. The ancient 780km path across northern Spain to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela and the shrine of St James usually takes at least a month to walk, but as Debbie and her fellow celebs actor Neil Morrissey, comedian Ed Byrne, singer Heather Small, priest Kate Bottley, journalist Raphael Rowe and TV presenter JJ Chalmers have just 15 days in which to complete it, they will travel some of it by minibus. But they will still be doing plenty of walking, as well as reflecting on whether a medieval pilgrimage has any relevance in the modern day.

BROADCAST YOUR BUSINESS

WITH THE COMPLETE PRODUCTION OF A COMPELLING VIDEO

1. PRE-PRODUCTION PLANNING
Where we find out about you!
2. ON-LOCATION RECORDING
The important bit.
3. AUDIO PRODUCTION
Music or voice over?
4. POST PRODUCTION
Where the finishing touches happen.
5. VIDEO ADVERTISING
Want even more exposure?



CALL 01902 319730

Source: www.mnadigital.co.uk/video-advertising

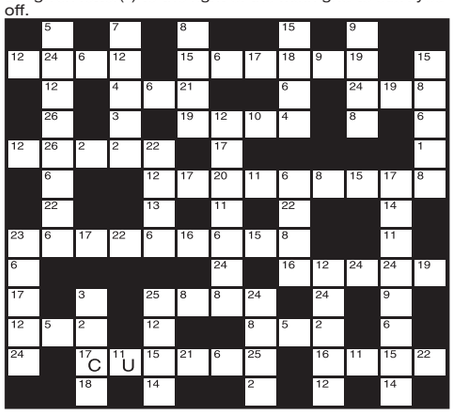
MNA DIGITAL

BRAIN GYM

No.470

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17 C
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11 U	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
B	M	C	K	N	E	W	R	D	X	Q	T	V
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
I	Z	U	L	F	P	S	H	J	A	Y	G	O

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

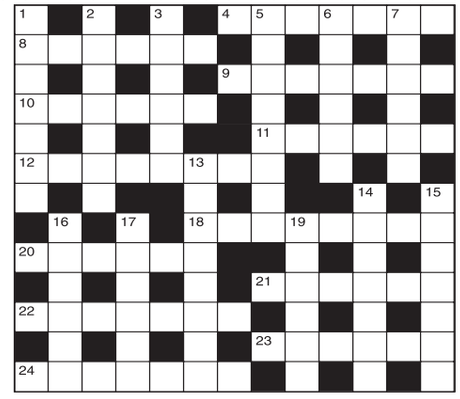
Cryptic Clues:

Across

4. Equitable method on the golf course? (7)
8. Understanding about a boy (6)
9. The pretentious fellow is out of bed to begin with (7)
10. Italian can't be bothered about us (6)
11. Did a staggering dance? (6)
12. This material makes part of the body atrophy (8)
18. Obese, and with a roll, he believes what will be will be (8)
20. Succeed in making the fellow look older (6)
21. He's used to slippery affairs (6)
22. Desperate position in narrow channel (7)
23. Nine to chant (6)
24. Article on a divine finish in supplement (7)

Down

1. Speech is nothing to charge deserter with (7)
2. Father's judicious journey (7)
3. Kill graduate for his estate (6)
5. Father is torn both ways, it would seem (8)
6. Preferably desert the female (6)
7. Concurred it is a deadly sin (6)
13. Beaten by achievement, indeed (8)
14. Fit coin into story (7)
15. Began to recognize Edward as a top actor (7)
16. With rugs entangled in thick mass (6)
17. Rag about how old vehicle building is (6)
19. Making a request from the throne (6)



Quick Clues:

Across

4. Diversity (7)
8. Believed (6)
9. Narrative (7)
10. Puma (6)
11. Thorny (6)
12. Contrite (8)
18. Begin (8)
20. Hue (6)
21. Hit (6)
22. Funny (7)
23. Hold back (6)
24. Long (7)

Down

1. Idea (7)
2. Appetising (7)
3. Leave (6)
5. Habituate (8)
6. Satirical (6)
7. Suffused (6)
13. Intrude (8)
14. Brutal (7)
15. Enfeebles (7)
16. Churlish (6)
17. Advent (6)
19. Murmur (6)

Sudoku

3		8						6
		7	6		2	8		
	5			7			3	2
	3	9				2	6	
			9	5				8
	8	1				9	5	
	9			6			8	
		3	1		4	5		
7					5			3

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	2	9	3	4	1	7	8	6
7	6	3	8	2	5	1	4	9
1	4	8	9	6	7	5	2	3
6	8	4	1	5	9	3	7	2
3	7	2	4	8	6	9	5	1
9	1	5	7	3	2	4	6	8
2	9	6	5	7	3	8	1	4
8	3	7	6	1	4	2	9	5
4	5	1	2	9	8	6	3	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Investments; 9 Rip; 10 Trenchant; 11 Juror; 13 Student; 14 Cruise; 16 Merino; 18 Indiana; 19 Sonic; 20 Numerator; 21 Tap; 22 Snow leopard. Down: 2 Nap; 3 Eater; 4 Theism; 5 Exclude; 6 Tragedian; 7 Projections; 8 Stethoscope; 12 Roundsman; 15 Sparrow; 17 Battle; 19 Strip; 21 Tar.
QUICK - Across: 1 Suppression; 9 Ewe; 10 Guarantee; 11 Enemy; 13 Expense; 14 Escort; 16 Entomb; 18 Impulse; 19 Tutor; 20 Universal; 21 Opt; 22 Incessantly.
Down: 2 Use; 3 Pygmy; 4 Erased; 5 Sharpen; 6 Out-and-out; 7 Deleterious; 8 Reverberate; 12 Exception; 15 Relieve; 17 Versus; 19 Talon; 21 Oil.

Quiz

1. What is the USA's equivalent of the Epsom Derby?
2. Who was the first woman, according to Greek mythology?
3. Which former Middle East empire's capital was Nineveh?
4. What sort of creature is a bluetongue?
5. Which Australian port is at the mouth of the Swan river?
6. Which martial art's name is Japanese for 'gentle way'?
7. Of what is the Sequoiadendron giganteum the world's largest?
8. Which war opened with the Battle of Lexington and Concord?
9. What was the Democratic Republic of the Congo called from 1971-97?
10. What was the BBC's teletext service called?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Bradley Stone; 2 Florin; 3 Élysée Palace; 4 Coconut; 5 Aneurin Bevan; 6 San Marino; 7 Jacobins; 8 Cheetah; 9 Wailing Wall; 10 Order of the Garter.

Niner: PULSATING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

46785365 gives a leader,
1232485 gives a second leader,
9248 gives a wise man.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Star Reader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind
Your Chronicle in association with leger holidays

Discover your next holiday with 100s of fully-escorted tours to choose from by coach, air or cruise.

✓ Holidays from only £249pp
✓ Luxury coaches with extra legroom
✓ Free local joining points and regional airports
✓ £50pp low deposit

ABTA ATOL

Local joining points: *Dudley*, Stourbridge*, Halesowen*, Birmingham*

Call 01709 787 491 (Quote: RP22) www.leger.co.uk

Terms & conditions apply. *Supplements may apply.

ASHWOOD NURSERIES
NURSERY | TEA ROOM | GIFT SHOP | GARDEN CENTRE

Gift ideas for Mothering Sunday
Sunday 11th March

Gift vouchers, luxury fragrances, jewellery, fashion accessories, chocolates, home fragrance, planted & artificial arrangements, gifts for gardeners, greetings cards and lots of beautiful plants!

Orchid Extravaganza Now On!

Come and visit us we are situated just off the A449, 1 mile south of Wall Heath

- Beautiful Plants and Nursery
- Garden Shop
- Gift Shop
- Tea Room (Open 9:45am - 4:45pm daily)
- Outdoor Children's Play Area

WWW.ASHWOODNURSERIES.COM

Ashwood Nurseries, Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford, DY6 0AE Tel: 01384 401996
Spring/Summer Opening Hours: Mondays to Saturdays 8.30am – 5:30pm & Sundays: 9am – 5:30pm

Turtley awesome Caribbean food

WITH friends down for the weekend – and not a child in sight – we decided to look for somewhere with a bit of a party atmosphere that didn't break the bank and also had a reputation for good food.

Venturing in to Birmingham city centre, there is a fair amount to choose from but one style of food I had always wanted to experience but never had – other than at music festivals when the tastebuds weren't exactly at the top of their game – was Caribbean food.

When thinking of Caribbean cooking, the mind immediately wanders to scotch bonnets, coconut milk, all spice, fantastic rubs and seasoning for all sorts of meats and fish – and of course, jerk sauce. So, after a short debate, we settled on Turtle Bay, which sits on the corner of the bustling John Bright Street.

Babyback pork ribs – just one of the many choices

Bright lights and buzzing atmosphere inside

COCKTAILS

Plenty of bars and restaurants have opened up in that area of Birmingham and there is a lot of competition, so it speaks volumes for Turtle Bay that is was absolutely packed when we arrived just after 4pm.

Friday and Saturday evenings get very busy, especially as the restaurant prides itself on serving fresh food, but we arrived purposely early so we could sample a few of the cocktails, which were two-for-one during certain times. And it's fair to say the Saturday night party atmosphere was already in full swing as we went to the bar to order our drinks.

Where to start with the cocktail menu? To say the list is extensive would be an understatement. But if you like a cocktail, or fancy popping somewhere to try one as a one-off, Turtle Bay would be a good place to start.

It was a little earlier than the 5pm reservation time but the staff were happy to seat us, which was a nice touch.

For those who like sharing, the 'cutters' section would be ideal because you can choose either three dishes for £14 or four for £18. The idea is inspired by beach shacks and street vendors across the Caribbean islands, and the dishes are also perfect for a starter.

We shared a starter per couple, opting for crispy spiced panko coated squid, mango mole, fresh lime and jerk mayo. When it came to the mains it was a challenge to pick just one meal from the large choice on offer.

During a weekday, had we not been planning a few drinks after, the goat curry would have pretty much been a sure-fire pick for me. In the end I settled for West Indian steamed snapper, as it seemed a bit lighter. The snapper fillet came served in light coconut curry sauce, garlic, ginger, scotch bonnet, sweet onion chutney and fresh coconut shavings. I could not have chosen better.

My wife, Kelly, went for the grilled jerk marinated pork ribs, served with sweet potato fries, sour orange chutney and Caribbean slaw.Kelly doesn't like her foot too spicy, so the coconut sauce with the meat was ideal.

Our friend Jo went for the pit-grilled two-way chicken burger, which was a spicy panko crumb chicken fillet and pulled jerk chicken, served with tomato and fresh pineapple chow and her fiancé, Dale, chose half a pit-grilled chicken, coconut rice 'n' peas, sour orange chutney, coconut shavings and Caribbean slaw. He said the meal looked really good but lacked a bit of the flavour the description warranted.

We didn't fancy a pudding but there were plenty of options available.

It wouldn't be fair to review Turtle Bay without reaffirming how good the atmosphere was. Highly recommended if you fancy somewhere a bit more upbeat.

JAMES DRIVER-FISHER

With Easter School Holidays just around the corner, keep an eye out for activites and ideas for days out to keep your children busy and entertained!
To advertise please telephone Sarah Childs on 01384 353258

Part of Express & Star Ltd

MNA Media

Property prices dip but high demand to keep market going

Property prices in the UK fell slightly by 0.3 per cent in February to an average of £210,402 with annual growth also down at 2.2 per cent, the latest lender index shows.

But overall housing market activity is expected to slow only modestly as unemployment and interest rates remain low by historic standards as high demand and low supply keeps the market going, according to the report from the Nationwide.

The lender is predicting that house prices will be broadly flat, with a marginal gain of around one per cent over the course of 2018.

"How the housing market performs in the year ahead will be determined in large part by developments in the wider economy and the path of interest rate," said chief economist Robert Gardner.

"Brexit developments will remain a key factor, though these remain hard to foresee. We continue to expect the UK economy to grow at modest pace, with annual growth of one per cent to 1.5 per cent in 2018 and 2019.

"Subdued economic activity and the ongoing squeeze on household budgets is likely to exert a modest drag on housing market activity and house price growth," he added.

Challenging

But experts are warning that even with a flat market affordability for first-time buyers will remain challenging.

"Purchasing a property in today's market can leave many feeling exhausted and disheartened by the process," said expert Jeff Knight.

Jeremy Duncombe agrees. He said: "Competitive mortgage deals and Government schemes should give more and more would-be buyers the opportunity to step onto the property ladder. Affordability, is however still a main cause for concern," he pointed out.

Limited supply is continuing to act at a bottleneck, squeezing many potential buyers out of the market, according to Richard Sexton, director of e.surv.

"Saving for a deposit is one of the biggest challenges would-be home owners face," he said.

The firm's most recent mortgage monitor showed that only 17 per cent of loan approvals went to borrowers with small deposits in London.

"Although we have seen a commitment from the Government to address our housing crisis with an exemption of stamp duty for first-time buyers, only time will tell if this has been enough to fully support them," he added.

First-time buyers seeing more mortgage applications backed

There has been a significant rise in the number of first-time buyer mortgage applications via intermediaries being approved in the UK as access to home lending improved for this sector.

The latest mortgage market tracer from the Intermediary Mortgage Lenders Association (IMLA) shows that 74 per cent of first-time buyers' mortgage applications resulted in a completion during the fourth quarter of 2017, up from 53 per cent in the same quarter in 2016.

The figures also show that nine in 10, some 88 per cent, of first-time buyers secured a mortgage offer, up from 73 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2016. Some 84 per cent of these offers went on to complete compared to 72 per cent in the previous 12 months.

UK Finance data recently showed that first-time buyer numbers reached a 10-year high in 2017 and the IMLA's report suggests that this was helped by a rise in offers. Overall, it meant that 71 per cent% of first-time buyer applicants achieved their aim of securing a mortgage in 2017, compared with 50 per cent in 2016.

The report points out that the situation for first time buyers has improved without a noticeable change to the burden of mortgage repayments they are taking on.

In December 2016, UK Finance data shows average first-time buyer mortgage repayments were equivalent to 17.4 per cent of income. This remained largely stable throughout 2017 and actually fell to 17.1 per cent of income in December 2017.

The average loan to value also reduced slightly from 82 per cent in December 2016 to 81.4 per cent at the end of 2017 as first-time buyers' average borrowing remained stable as a proportion of the overall price paid for their homes.

The IMLA also points out that improving product availability, persistently low interest rates and strong competition between lenders and a cooling of house price growth have all helped first-time buyers' along with the continuation of the Help to Buy equity loan scheme. IMLA's data suggests first-time buyers' fortunes have improved more than any category of borrower in the last year.

For every 100 applications, an additional 21 first-time buyers completed on a mortgage in the final quarter of the fourth quarter of 2016. The next biggest improvement in terms of access to mortgage finance was among specialist borrowers, with the completion rate rising from 61 per 100 in the fourth quarter of 2016 to 73 in the final quarter of 2017.

Home movers saw the biggest quarterly improvement at the end of 2017 and were the only group to enjoy a greater success rate with mortgage completions in the fourth quarter of 2017 at 77 per 100 applications compared with 74 in the third quarter.

Despite wider uncertainty in the UK's economic outlook, the improving performance of the mortgage market last year meant that intermediaries have approached the New Year with confidence about their prospects for 2018, the report also reveals.

Overall, 95 per cent were confident about the outlook for the mortgage industry in the fourth quarter, unchanged year-on-year, while 56 per cent were very confident about the outlook for the intermediary sector in particular, up from 52 per cent a year earlier. In terms of their own business' activity, some 64 per cent were very confident about the outlook in the fourth quarter of 2017, up from 61 per cent at the end of 2016.

"The mortgage market has proved itself to be resilient over the last year and intermediaries have continued to play a vital role in joining the dots between lender supply and consumer demand. In particular, first-time buyers have benefited from widely available and competitively priced deals, even before the extra confidence boost of the stamp duty exemption announced in the Autumn Budget," said Kate Davies, IMLA executive director.

Bank of mum and dad helps young get on ladder

Parents are loaning an average of £24,347 to help their children get on the property ladder in the UK and for those who gift the money it is £32,101, according to new research.

Overall some 16 per cent, one in six, of first-time buyers, amounting to 2.2 million, are funding their home purchase with a parental loan yet 87 per cent of them have no property agreement in place, according to the report from Post Office Money.

Indeed, the majority of parents do not formalise an agreement with their house-buying children and are failing to provide a deed of gift or letter of intent which could put them at risk legally.

Only one in five buyers agree a monthly repayment plan with parents. Those who do pay back £500 a month for an average of four years but 23 per cent will need to renegotiate due to a change in their circumstances, the research also found.

Parents on the whole are very keen to help their children realise their property dreams with 83 per cent wanting to do so. Some 38 per cent do so on the understanding it will be a loan. They say this is to protect their own finances and also to be able to help more than one of their offspring.

However, young people are often hesitant about borrowing money with 82 per cent saying this is how they fell out and 20 per cent saying this is because

they want to maintain a good relationship with their parents. Some 29 per cent agree a verbal agreement over a loan but 19 per cent confessed to not even discussing the terms of the loan from their parents.

Only 16 per cent consult a third party, such as a solicitor and the vast majority of parents are neglecting to put a letter of intent or deed of gift in place to formalise their financial support.

Without this, both parents and buyers are left legally vulnerable and could even be pursued for additional costs such as stamp duty, says Post Office Money.

For those that do sit down to discuss the terms of their loan, many factors are commonly considered to help ensure repayment is fair including household income, the potential for their income to grow over time and their cost of living.

Just 21 per cent agree a regular repayment plan with parents showing a great deal of trust in their children to pay them back 'at some point', the survey found. However, only four per cent of young buyers who borrow will miss a payment but much more often families will have to renegotiate, due to a change in circumstances.

"The level of support that the UK's parents want to provide their children is truly heartwarming. High house prices and a challenging cost of living has meant that families have had to increasingly live out of each other's pockets to make the most of their combined financial capability," said Owen Woodley, managing director of Post Office Money.

"Indeed, 46 per cent of young people who receive money from their parents anticipate that they will support them financially later in life. Despite this, it's important for everyone to be clear about the nature of their agreement so that everyone's expectations are aligned," he added.

The Money Charity has worked with Post Office to create a new guide to help parents and adult children navigate what may be a pretty heavy, but very important conversation.

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, March 8, 2018

Long waiting list for this dream car

By Carmel Stewart

If you are thinking of buying a McLaren 720S then best pal up with a couple of friends similarly inclined and drive in convoy.

The car in front will not only afford a delightful view of the sleek and sporty rear of McLaren's latest gift to performance driving, but it will also allow full aural appreciation of the unmistakable rumble of McLaren's mighty 4.0litre V8 turbocharged engine.

The car behind will give you a view of the beautifully crafted front end while, in the two-seater cabin of the car in the middle, you can delight in all the wonderful gadgets and gizmos including the excellent satellite navigation.

Access is far less problematical than in the 650S it replaces but remember to give yourself plenty of elbow room either side to open the gull wing doors and wear your best bloomers, just in case.

Behind the wheel, once you have stopped worrying about oncoming traffic, hedgerows, pot holes and other potential damaging hazards, the McLaren 720S is as wonderful to drive as it is to look at.

It is agile, involving and surprisingly comfortable, with the precise, well-weighted steering, the power smoothly and seamlessly delivered via the seven-speed automatic transmission, all making for a thoroughly rewarding drive, very slightly off set by encroaching road noise.

The set-up includes an active dynamic panel whereby the driver can select comfort, sport or track which subtly alter the gearing ratios and suspension settings.

Capable of producing 720ps, it'll zap from 0 to 60mph in 2.8 seconds and on to a top speed of 212mph, when you have the space and the freedom.

Luxury inside for two plus space for weekend bags

It is agile with precise well-weighted steering

A pause in a car park to change drivers had men, women and children flocking round with 'phones at the ready for selfies

And be in no doubt, this car is a real head turner. A brief pause in a public car park to change drivers had men, women and children flocking round with 'phones at the ready for selfies and the like.

Although there is only room for two, luggage space is more than adequate for soft weekend bags.

Supermarket shopping is not to be recommended, firstly because it would be a crime to use this car for something so mundane and secondly because negotiating the speed humps requires an electric nose lifting procedure which takes just a few seconds but would spoil the driving flow if repeated multiple times.

Prices start at £208,600 for the standard model, although really nothing about this perfect automotive delight is standard. A step up to Performance or indeed Luxury requires a slightly deeper dig for upwards of £218,020.

If you are seriously considering buying one then be prepared for a wait – each car is hand assembled at the McLaren Production Centre in Woking, Surrey and, despite the price tag, it is proving exceedingly popular. More than 400 orders were placed within days of the initial announcement. The order books are now chock-a-block until the summer, but patience and deep pockets should have you behind the wheel of this dream car in time to enjoy the summer sunshine sparkling on the bonnet.

The company is totally independent so there are no parts or even ideas of any other manufacturer to be found anywhere on its vehicles. It produces between 4,000 and 5,000 cars a year and has no plans to increase production.

While awaiting the arrival of your 720S supercar you could while away an hour or so putting together a Lego Speed Champion version at the modest starting price of £12.99.

MARCH NEW REG PART EXCHANGE OFFERS!!!

	NOW
07/07 RENAULT CLIO RIP CURL 1.2 3DR, SILVER, 47,355 MILES	£3295
13/13 CHEVROLET SPARK LTZ 1.2 5DR, SILVER, 31,727 MILES	£4495
12/62 FIAT PANDA TWINAIR LOUNGE 5DR, BLUE 30,548 MILES	£4695
10/10 VAUXHALL CORSA SE 1.3 5DR, BLACK, 43,000 MILES	£4695
15/15 VOLKSWAGEN UP HIGH BLACK, 23,276 MILES	£4766
11/61 HYUNDAI I20 CLASSIC 1.2 5DR, RED, 30,957 MILES	£4995
12/62 FIAT PUNTO EASY 1.2 3DR, WHITE, 11,980 MILES	£5295
12/12 MAZDA 2 TAMURA 1.3 3DR, BLUE, 44,678 MILES	£5495
12/62 HYUNDAI I20 ACTIVE 5DR, GREY, 41,015 MILES	£5995
12/62 PEUGEOT 208 ACTIVE 5DR, BLUE, 32,015 MILES	£5995
12/12 MERCEDES BENZ A160 1.5 BLUE EFFICIENCY SILVER, 48,866 MILES	£5995
13/63 SKODA FABIA SE 12V BLUE, 17,803 MILES	£6445
13/13 SEAT IBIZA 1.6 FR CR TDI BLACK, 62,045 MILES	£6695
13/13 HYUNDAI IX20 ACTIVE 1.4 GREY, 42,000 MILES	£6995
11/61 PEUGEOT 3008 EXC E-HDI S-AUTO SILVER, 49,630 MILES	£6995
15/15 SEAT IBIZA TOCA 1.4 5DR H, GREY, 21,370 MILES	£7495
14/14 SUZUKI SPLASH 5DR 1.2 SZ4 AUTO BLUE, 6,301 MILES	£7495
12/62 FORD FOCUS ZETEC 1.6 TDCI RED, 52,802 MILES	£7495
17/17 SUZUKI SWIFT SZ2 3DR SILVER, 3,225 MILES	£7695

	NOW
09/09 MINI COOPER 1.6 S CHILLI PACK GREY, 44,000 MILES	£7995
13/63 VAUXHALL ADAM 1.4I ECOFLEX SLAM RED 30,895 MILES	£7995
12/62 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.4 S TSI 2DR, WHITE 50,044 MILES	£8995
14/64 SKODA OCTAVIA SE BUSINESS TDI RED, 49,515 MILES	£9995
15/15 MINI ONE, 3DR RED, 16,328 MILES	£10295
12/12 MERCEDES BENZ C220 SPORT 4DR, SILVER, 52,894 MILES	£11495
15/65 MAZDA 6 SE -L NAV WHITE, 36,231 MILES	£11995
15/15 VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE DESIGN WHITE, 10,519 MILES	£12425
14/14 AUDI A1 S LINE TFSI WHITE, 35,990 MILES	£12470
17/17 RENAULT CAPTUR DYNAMIQUE S NAV DC SILVER, 9,650 MILES	£12695
13/63 AUDI A6 SE 2.0 TDI SE 4DR, WHITE, 40,814 MILES	£13495
15/65 VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.8 GTI 5DR, WHITE, 26,127 MILES	£13750
15/15 AUDI A4 SE TECHNIK TDI CVT 4DR, GREY, 36,951 MILES	£14995
14/64 RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.2 SD4 PURE RED, 29,500 MILES	£23795
13/13 LAND RANGE ROVER EVOQUE DYNAMIC BLACK, 47,692 MILES	£26995

** MANY MORE CARS ARRIVING DAILY **

COMMERCIAL VANS FROM £12995+ VAT

WE STOCK A WIDE SELECTION OF MOTORHOMES AND CAMPER VANS, FROM £14,995!!

Please contact Craig or Howard
T Wall Garages
01384 288333
www.twall.co.uk

High Street, Pensnett,
Kingswinford
DY6 8XB
1 Mile from Russells Hall
Hospital, towards Kingswinford

Award winning family-run business – established 1953
Motability Premier Dealer

VAUXHALL

T Wall Ford EXCLUSIVE

CHOOSE A SUPERB NEW 18 REG KUGA ST-LINE

Spec includes: 18" 5x2-spoke dark machined alloy wheels ■ Full body styling kit ■ ST-Line unique headlight & fog light bezels ■ Black finish roof rails ■ Sports suspension ■ Front parking sensors ■ Enhanced Active Park Assist ■ Aluminium-finish foot pedals ■ Leather-trimmed steering wheel with red stitching ■ ST-Line unique gearshift knob with red stitching

SAVE £4836

OFF RRP

£3718* DEPOSIT | **£279*** PER MONTH x38 | **1.2%** APR REPRESENTATIVE*

We have 5 ONLY and expect demand to be high for this offer - order yours NOW for March delivery

REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE: FORD KUGA ST-LINE 1.5 120PS DIESEL MANUAL*

38 monthly payments	Cash price	Customer deposit	Amount of credit	Charge for credit	Total amount payable	GMFV (optional final payment)	Mileage per annum	Excess mileage charge (pence per mile)	Term
£279.01	£24,429.00	£3,718.00	£20,711.00	£573.38	£25,022.38	£10,682.00	6,000	8.0	39 months

1.2% APR Representative*

0% APR FINANCE AVAILABLE*

Don't miss this amazing value New 18 Reg opportunity - Call us now.

www.twallford.co.uk

TWall Ford High Street, Pensnett, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 8XB
Tel: 01384 282 900

Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) Highest: FORD Kuga 1.5 EcoBoost (182PS), A6-AWD : Urban 30.1 (9.4), Extra Urban 44.8 (6.3), Combined 37.7 (7.5), CO_2 emissions 173(g/km). Lowest: FORD Kuga 1.5 TDCi (120PS), M6: urban 57.6 (4.9), extra urban 67.3 (4.2), combined 64.2 (4.4). Official CO_2 emission 115g/km.

Retail only. Subject to availability. Prices & details correct at time of publishing & are subject to change without notice. *Finance subject to status to UK residents aged 18 or over through Ford Credit. Guarantees/indemnities may be required. An Excess Mileage Charge will be payable if you decide to return the vehicle & the agreed annual mileage has been exceeded. Finance example figures are based on 6,000 miles per annum for illustration purposes & may vary depending on circumstances. Please note calls may be recorded for training & quality purposes. Details correct at time of publication, E&OE.

T Wall Ford USED CAR SALE

BIG CHOICE • GREAT QUALITY • LOW PRICES

14 14 Mazda MX-5 1.8i Sport Venture Edition
Grey, 20972 Miles
Spec includes:
• ABS • Alarm • Alloys Wheels
• Climate Control • Leather Seats
• Front Fog Lights • Sat Nav
OUR PRICE **£11500**

14 14 Audi TT 2.0 FSI Quattro Stronic Auto
White, 36,619 Miles
Spec Includes:
• ABS • Alloys Whees
• Rear Park Assist • Half Leather Seats
• Front Fog Lights • PAS
OUR PRICE **£17500**

15 15 Volkswagen Up 1.0 Street Up
Black, 11,822 Miles
Spec Includes:
• ABS • Air Con • Front Fog Lights
• Sat Nav • PAS • Heated Seats
• Trip Computer
OUR PRICE **£8000**

15 65 Honda HR-V 1.6 I-Dtec Ex
Grey, 34,039 Miles
Spec Includes:
• ABS • Alloys Wheels
• Cruise Control • Leather Seats
• Reverse Parking Aid • PAS
• Roof Rails
OUR PRICE **£16000**

17 67	Fiesta 1.0 Ecoboost, 5dr, Choice Of Colours Delivery Mileage From	£14318
16 66	Fiesta 1.0 140 Zetec S, Big Spec, Blue, 8949 Miles	£11999
14 14	Fiesta Zetec Auto, 1.0 Eco, White 25498 Miles	£9499
15 65	Fiesta ST2, Blue, 12363 Miles	£12499
16 16	Fiesta 1.0 Zetec S Red Edition, Red 19499 Miles	£10499
15 65	Fiesta 1.0 Titanium Powershift, Sat Nav, 5dr, Grey, 9739 Miles	£11499
16 16	Fiesta 1.0 140 Red Edition, Red , 17550 Miles	£10999
16 66	Fiesta 1.0 Ecoboost, Sat Nav, 5dr, Blue 7007 Miles	£9999
14 64	Fiesta 1.0 125 Titanium, Big Spec, Blue, 36166 Miles	£8999
15 15	Fiesta 1.0 Zetec, 5dr, Red, 25630 Miles	£8499
14 14	Fiesta 1.0 Zetec, 5dr, Red, 32387 Miles	£8499
11 11	Fiesta 1.4 Zetec, 5dr, Green , 56145 Miles	£5999
14 63	Nissan Leaf Tekna Auto, Top Spec, Red, 6410 Miles	£11499
15 15	Clio 1.5 Dynamique, 5dr, Black, 10101 Miles	£8999
15 65	Suzuki Swift 1.6 Sport, White, 5dr, Navigation, 21127 Miles	£8499
15 15	Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Se, 5dr, 24848 Miles	£7999
15 15	VW Up 1.0 Street, 5dr, 11822 Miles	£7999
12 12	Mazda 1.3 Tamura, 5dr, 25248 Miles	£5499
11 61	Fiat 500 Abarth, White, 41040 Miles	£7499
15 15	Ka 1.2 Titanium, Black, 10392 Miles	£6999
12 12	Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Sxi, 5dr, Grey, 30134 Miles	£5999
15 65	Mondeo 2.0 Hybrid Auto, Red, 26584 Miles	£15999
15 15	Mondeo 2.0 Titanium, White, 30633 Miles	£13499
14 64	Focus 1.6 Titanium Dsl Navi, Blue, 26535 Miles	£9999
14 64	Focus 1.6 Zetec Auto, Red, 28149 Miles	£8499
16 16	Focus 2.0 Ecoboost St, Top Spec, Black, 15349 Miles	£17999
16 66	Corsa VXR, Red, 21749 Miles	£12499
15 15	Fiesta ST3 Mountune, White, 25445 Miles	£12499
14 14	Mazda MX-5 1.8 Venture Edition, Grey 20972 Miles	£11499
16 16	Torneo Connect, 1.0 Ecoboost, Gold, 18542 Miles	£13999
15 65	Honda HRV 1.6 Dsl Ex, Top Spec, Grey, 34039 Miles	£15999
14 14	Audi Tt Quattro Black Edition, White, 36619 Miles	£17499
15 65	Mercedes C Class C200 Se, White, 45691 Miles	£15999
13 63	Mercedes B Class, Big Spec, B180 Cdi, Silver	£10499
14 64	Mercedes A Class A200 Cdi Auto, Big Spec, Red, 20674 Miles	£14999
12 62	Audi TT 1.8 TFSi, S Line, White, 34073 Miles	£13499

Come to T Wall for a fantastic choice of top quality used cars - Call us now for more details

Offers subject to stock availability, terms and conditions. Pictures for illustration purposes only. Details correct at time of publication E&OE.

TWall Ford High Street, Pensnett, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 8XB
Tel: 01384 282 900

See all of our stock online at:
www.twallford.co.uk

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, March 8, 2018

Corsa marks 25 years with great deal

By James Parker

Vauxhall marks a birthday with 25 things you may not know about the iconic Corsa.

An era famous for Britpop, Walkmans, shell suits and The Spice Girls, the 1990s was a standout decade for British culture that welcomed another icon in 1993 – the Vauxhall Corsa.

Offer

One of the nation's most beloved vehicles, the Corsa, is celebrating its 25th year in the UK, and to mark the occasion Vauxhall is offering a brand new Corsa from just £149 per month, with a £149 initial rental* – just in time for it to wear a new '18' plate, too.

In a deal that would have surprised buyers back in 1993, let alone 2018, the Vauxhall Corsa on offer – an Energy three-door 1.4 (75PS) – is worlds apart from its original namesake.

For example, who'd have thought 25 years ago that a personal assistant could be accessed directly from the comfort of your car via Corsa's clever OnStar system?

But Vauxhall's best-seller has always moved with the times.

The Corsa was born with cassette players and now offers Apple CarPlay; its most popular engines have almost doubled in power; and its interior dimensions have grown significantly. But while design and tech have changed over 25 years, the Corsa's amazing value hasn't, its price only increasing by £3,850.

The original Corsa Supermini was first introduced alongside supermodels Kate Moss, Naomi Campbell, Christy Turlington and Linda Evangelista.

Like Kate Moss, who also made her screen debut at the time, the Corsa has been part of British culture since 1993.

As Vauxhall's best-selling model, over two million have been sold in the United Kingdom – that's the equivalent of nine purchases an hour.

Leon Caruso, retail sales director at Vauxhall Motors comments: "The Corsa has played such an integral part in British culture over the past 25 years, I think it'd be difficult to find someone who hasn't owned or had a friend or family member who has owned a model.

"That's why we're celebrating the Corsa's quarter-century anniversary year with our best-ever offer: a Corsa Energy for just £149 per month, with a £149 initial rental*. I encourage you to hot foot it down to your local Vauxhall retailer to take advantage of this fantastic, industry-leading offer."

For more details on the Corsa offer, go online to http://www.vauxhall.co.uk or visit your local Vauxhall retailer.

*Terms and conditions apply.

A new Corsa could cost just £149 per month

The Corsa A was rebadged as the "Vauxhall Nova" between 1983 and 1993

The performance version of the Corsa, the VXR

MARCH NEW REG PART EXCHANGE OFFERS!!!

	NOW
07/07 RENAULT CLIO RIP CURL 1.2 3DR, SILVER, 47,355 MILES	£3295
13/13 CHEVROLET SPARK LTZ 1.2 5DR, SILVER, 31,727 MILES	£4495
12/62 FIAT PANDA TWINAIR LOUNGE 5DR, BLUE 30,548 MILES	£4695
10/10 VAUXHALL CORSA SE 1.3 5DR, BLACK, 43,000 MILES	£4695
15/15 VOLKSWAGEN UP HIGH BLACK, 23,276 MILES	£4766
11/61 HYUNDAI I20 CLASSIC 1.2 5DR, RED, 30,957 MILES	£4995
12/62 FIAT PUNTO EASY 1.2 3DR, WHITE, 11,980 MILES	£5295
12/12 MAZDA 2 TAMURA 1.3 3DR, BLUE, 44,678 MILES	£5495
12/62 HYUNDAI I20 ACTIVE 5DR, GREY, 41,015 MILES	£5995
12/62 PEUGEOT 208 ACTIVE 5DR, BLUE, 32,015 MILES	£5995
12/12 MERCEDES BENZ A160 1.5 BLUE EFFICIENCY SILVER, 48,866 MILES	£5995
13/63 SKODA FABIA SE 12V BLUE, 17,803 MILES	£6445
13/13 SEAT IBIZA 1.6 FR CR TDI BLACK, 62,045 MILES	£6695
13/13 HYUNDAI IX20 ACTIVE 1.4 GREY, 42,000 MILES	£6995
11/61 PEUGEOT 3008 EXC E-HDI S-AUTO SILVER, 49,630 MILES	£6995
15/15 SEAT IBIZA TOCA 1.4 5DR H, GREY, 21,370 MILES	£7495
14/14 SUZUKI SPLASH 5DR 1.2 SZ4 AUTO BLUE, 6,301 MILES	£7495
12/62 FORD FOCUS ZETEC 1.6 TDCI RED, 52,802 MILES	£7495
17/17 SUZUKI SWIFT SZ2 3DR SILVER, 3,225 MILES	£7695

	NOW
09/09 MINI COOPER 1.6 S CHILLI PACK GREY, 44,000 MILES	£7995
13/63 VAUXHALL ADAM 1.4I ECOFLEX SLAM RED 30,895 MILES	£7995
12/62 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.4 S TSI 2DR, WHITE 50,044 MILES	£8995
14/64 SKODA OCTAVIA SE BUSINESS TDI RED, 49,515 MILES	£9995
15/15 MINI ONE, 3DR RED, 16,328 MILES	£10295
12/12 MERCEDES BENZ C220 SPORT 4DR, SILVER, 52,894 MILES	£11495
15/65 MAZDA 6 SE -L NAV WHITE, 36,231 MILES	£11995
15/15 VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE DESIGN WHITE, 10,519 MILES	£12425
14/14 AUDI A1 S LINE TFSI WHITE, 35,990 MILES	£12470
17/17 RENAULT CAPTUR DYNAMIQUE S NAV DC SILVER, 9,650 MILES	£12695
13/63 AUDI A6 SE 2.0 TDI SE 4DR, WHITE, 40,814 MILES	£13495
15/65 VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.8 GTI 5DR, WHITE, 26,127 MILES	£13750
15/15 AUDI A4 SE TECHNIK TDI CVT 4DR, GREY, 36,951 MILES	£14995
14/64 RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.2 SD4 PURE RED, 29,500 MILES	£23795
13/13 LAND RANGE ROVER EVOQUE DYNAMIC BLACK, 47,692 MILES	£26995

*** MANY MORE CARS ARRIVING DAILY ***

COMMERCIAL VANS FROM £12995+ VAT

WE STOCK A WIDE SELECTION OF MOTORHOMES AND CAMPER VANS, FROM £14,995!!

Please contact Craig or Howard
T Wall Garages
01384 288333
www.twall.co.uk

High Street, Pensnett,
Kingswinford
DY6 8XB
1 Mile from Russells Hall
Hospital, towards Kingswinford

Award winning family-run business – established 1953
Motability Premier Dealer

VAUXHALL

Local Specialists

Aerials

MATT WALTERS DIGITAL AERIALS
your LOCAL Aerial/Satellite specialist
Aerials - Satellite Dishes Fitted From £65
ANY LIKE FOR LIKE
QUOTATION BEATEN
Senior Citizen Discounts
2 Year Guarantee
Digital Aerials/Freeview/Freesat
SKY HD/ SKY+/MULTIROOM
SKY Q specialist
• Free Quotation • Repairs • Free Call Out
• Same Day service • Freeview Specialist
£10 OFF ON PRODUCTION OF THIS ADVERT
Mobile: 07853 253176

Blinds & Curtains

Blinds4Less
Choose From a fantastic range!
-Pleated -Venetians
-Romans -Curtains
-Verticals -Awnings
-Rollers -Shutters
"New range of chainless verticals and night and day rollers."
Give us a try before you buy!
Contact us on
01543 226104
07989 588728
Blinds4lessdirect.com

Builders

C ETHERIDGE BUILDING SERVICES
• Extensions
• Alterations
• Roofing
• Landscaping
• Block paving
• General property maintenance.
Over 35yrs experience
For a FREE quote call Chris
01384 635627
07989 738732

Decorating

PAINTER & DECORATOR
Professional and reliable
Fully insured
O.A.P Discounts
For a free quote call Carl
0121 561 1881
or 07532 200591

JOHN MORRIS
Interior & Exterior Decorating
Artexing & Coving
Over 35 years experience
FREE ESTIMATES
01384 349 375
07710 133 445

Carpentry

DAVID ADAMS CARPENTRY
Doors, loft conversions, laminate flooring, UPVC windows & doors
FREE QUOTATIONS
30 years experience
0121 602 1450
07885 417812

Double Glazing

Misted Sealed Units?
Black Country Glazing
Contact US for a FREE quote!
Manufacturers & Installers of windows, doors & conservatories
'A' Rated Windows as Standard
10 YEAR GUARANTEE
Please see our customer reviews on either Homepro or Which
"Energy efficient windows that won't cost the earth"
Station Street, Cradley Heath, B64 6AJ
Est 1987
01384 566100
www.blackcountryglazing.com
FENSA

Double Glazing

MISTY UNITS REPLACED
Buy Direct from the manufacturer. Est. 1999
Reduce heat loss by up to 75%
Also upgrade your existing double glazed units to Pilkington Energikare, it will help to reduce the amount of heat lost through your windows by up to 75%, lock, handles, hinges.
WITH A 10 YEAR GUARANTEE AND FITTING SERVICE AVAILABLE
HIGH SECURITY DOOR BARRELS NOW BEING FITTED
WE HAVE A NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER
01384 918383
Delph Glazed Units
Unit 32 Delph Rd Ind Est (by the tank), Brierley Hill DY5 2UA
Visit our new website
www.delphglazedunits.co.uk
Mobile: 07887 520599

Driveways

C T DRIVEWAYS
FOR ALL YOUR SURFACING & TARMAC WORK
• Paving and Driveways
• Block Bricks and Tarmac Repairs
• New Drives
• Forecourts
• Car Parks
• Trading Estates
Proud members of Checkatrade.com Where reputation matters
For all enquiries please call
Tel: 01384 270740 Mobile: 07587 954073
email: ctdriveways@mail.com
website: www.ct-driveways.co.uk

DISCOUNT DRIVEWAYS
Block Paving and Tarmac Drives • Red Tarmac Car Parks • Resurfacing
5 Year Guarantee
On All Work
Free Quotations and Advice
Checkatrade
Tel: 01384 79900 • 07583 170190
www.discountdriveways.co.uk

A.B.S
Driveways & Building
3rd Generation Family Business
A dedicated driveway specialist.
National company services with family business prices.
We pride ourselves on your satisfaction and that includes price.
Fully insured.
Proud members of Checkatrade.com Where reputation matters
01384 849090
07895 672594

Electricians

BRADLEY ELECTRICAL & MAINTENANCE
Est 1987
All electrical work undertaken
Fully qualified & insured
Installation Condition Reports
No job too small
★ FREE ESTIMATES ★
Electrical Safety Register
Call Paul 01384 344589 or 07812 435833
www.bradleyelectrical.net

R&D ELECTRICS
All Domestic Electrical work including Alarms
N.I.C.E.I.C. Registered
FREE QUOTES
Call Ron on:
07773 645854
or 01384 422182

MB electric
All domestic and commercial electrical works undertaken
Home rewiring from £800
For a high quality local service call :
01384 660398
07939 503905
mbelectric.co.uk

Fascias, Soffits & Guttering

Roberts Guttering Services
20% Discount
Local Specialists
Dry Verge Units Fitted
For All aspects of cleaning & repair call Robert for a FREE quote on
07767869792
We Fit UPVC Soffits & Fascias

Fencing

Fencing & Gates
All Garden Work Undertaken
• Slabbing • Block Paving • Tree Felling
• Turfing • Garden Clearance
NO JOB TOO SMALL
Manufacturers of all Concrete Products eg. Concrete Posts, Gravel Boards
All work guaranteed Insurance work undertaken
Over 15 years experience (Public liability covered)
Call Steve on
01384 242891 or 07970 300586

Garage Doors

GARADOR - CARDALE - SELECT - WESSEX - HENDERSON - HORMANN
SECTIONALS - UP & OVERS - SIDE-HINGED - ROLLERS - MOTORISED
RELIADOR GARAGE DOORS
SALES - INSTALLATION - REPAIRS
SAME DAY SERVICE
01384 386909
07858 299305
NO FIX NO FEE!
www.reliador.co.uk - reliadorgd@gmail.com
CALL US NOW FOR A FREE QUOTE

Gardening

ROWAN TREE AND GARDEN SERVICES
• Tree Surgeon Specialist
• Hedges Pruned/Shaped • Stump Grinding/Root Removal
• Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes
• Fencing • Turfing • Concreting • Driveways & Patios
• Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation quotation
WWW.ROWANGROUP.CO.UK
01384 213644 or 07733 226568
AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor, N.P.T.C. qualified, Public Liability Insurance (£5 million)
All staff C.R.B. Certified

R.A. GARDEN SERVICES
Established 24 years
Gardening & Landscaping Services
Including: • Tree Lopping • Hedge Cutting
• Lawn Mowing • Fencing & Slabbing
• Low Maintenance Landscaping • Gardens Cleared
FULLY INSURED • OAP DISCOUNTS
FOR FREE QUOTE CALL:
07970 876 638 • 01384 569 148
www.ragardenservices.net

SEDGLEY TREE CARE
Professional Tree Surgeon
All aspects of tree work undertaken
• CONTRACT TREE CLIMBER
• TREE REMOVAL
• CROWN REDUCTION
• STUMP GRINDING
• HEDGE TRIMMING
• GARDEN CLEARANCES
ALL WASTE REMOVED
NPTC QUALIFIED
07746813358 or
01902 659692
FOR A FREE QUOTE

Landscapers

CARDINAL LANDSCAPES
West Midlands
Specialists in Patios, Driveways, Paths, Fencing, Turfing, Decking and Landscaping
Call now for a FREE QUOTE
01902 562600 or
07539 887144

LANDSCAPING
Fencing, Patios and Driveways, Turfing and Artificial Grass, Retaining Walls, Pond Installation & Garden Clearance
CALL US ON:
07817 553 346
01384 387 016
TERRA FIRMA LANDSCAPING
info@terrafirma-arb.co.uk
www.terrafirma-arb.co.uk

Skip Hire

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE
Save £££s
All size skips and all areas covered
Same day delivery faster than A phone call!!!
Open 7 days a week
SCRAP CARS REMOVED FOR FREE
YOU FILL 'EM WE MT 'EM
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

Tree Surgeon

TREE SURGEONS
11 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN ALL ASPECTS OF TREE MAINTENANCE & TREE FELLING, STUMP REMOVAL, HEDGE TRIMMING
CALL US ON:
07817 553 346
01384 387 016
TERRA FIRMA ARBORICULTURE
info@terrafirma-arb.co.uk
www.terrafirma-arb.co.uk

Plumbing & Heating

ANDY ORMEROD
Heating, Plumbing

Gas Safe 87022 ACS approved
- Landlords Gas Certificates issued
- Servicing of Gas Appliances including installations
- General Plumbing work undertaken

A Member of the Approved Traders, Fix-A-Home Scheme

Tel: 01384 386944
Mobile: 07974 549460

P.S. Heating & Plumbing
Combi Boiler change from **£950**
Specialists in Biasi / Baxi / Worcester Bosch / Vaillant Boilers plus many more
SPECIAL OFFERS ON FULL HEATING SYSTEMS
NATURAL & LPG GAS
Fully Insured up to £2 million
Free Quotation
07961 140885
safe register 301067

KEN PERRY
PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER
Gas Fitting, Boiler Servicing and Immersion Heaters, Multi Point Water Heaters, Landlord's Gas Certificates, Boilers changed
Guild of Master Crafstmen Gas Safe Registered
STOURBRIDGE 392284

Roofing

Chatsworth ROOFING AND DRIVEWAYS
- Roof repairs
- Block paving • Tarmac
- Artificial grass

Local family business
20% DISCOUNT IN MARCH
FREE quotations
Tel: 01384 469 661
Mobile: 07587 804 206
www.chatsworthroofingandriveways.co.uk

Roofing

ROOFING SERVICES
One of the Leading Roofing Companies
No Job too Small, No Job too Big
- Gutters Cleaned From £15
- Small Repairs From £15
- Pointing Work From £15

SPECIAL OFFERS
on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs.
- Rubberised flat roofing
- Flat roof specialist
- Insurance work undertaken
- Est 25 years
- **Discounted for OAPs**
- Exterior Painting

FREE QUOTES AVAILABLE
WILL BEAT ANY GENUINE QUOTE
SPECIAL OFFER on EPDM Rubberised Roofing
Home: 01384 872276
Mobile: 07584 081228

ELITE PLASTICS
• Fascias • Sofits • Dry Verge
• Pointing • Gutter Cleaning And Repair
Premium Products Expertly Fitted With Full Manufacture Guarantee.
For A Free Quote call
01384 468831 / 07985 575865
www.eliteplasticsupvc.co.uk

Rubbish Removal

A.J.B. Waste Management
Try us for a **FREE** no obligation quotation
FOR A CHEAP RUBBISH REMOVAL 6 DAYS
Small jobs NOT A PROBLEM
We load, No Skips, Free quotation
GARDEN, HOUSEHOLD, SHED, GARAGE, WHITE GOODS, HOUSE CLEARANCES FURNITURE.
You can also bring your own waste to our fully licensed transfer station
CALL TODAY AND LETS TALK RUBBISH
Tel 0121 520 7731

M&M Roofing & Fascias
Est 2001
Quality
- uPVC Fascias
- Soffits
- Guttering
- Cladding
- All aspects of roofing
- New roofs/repairs
- Flat roofs
- Tiling/slating
- Dry verges
- Approved fibre glass installer

Also
CONCRETE GUTTERING
Specialist removal
Replacing with
Modern low maintenance
Upvc Fascias and Soffits

All work guaranteed with HomePro Insurance

No Free Gimmicks Family Business
Local References if required

Registered with HomePro Insurance
Membership No. 554518
TRUST MARK Government Endorsed Standards www.trustmark.org.uk
FAIRTRADE

Giving homeowners peace of mind
ALWAYS FREE ADVICE AND QUOTATION
Freephone 0800 799 9413
Mob: 07906 724736
to speak to Mark
123 Amblecote Road, Brierley Hill, West Midlands DY5 2YD

ClassifiedAds

Buy Local, **Sell** Local

Funeral Directors

Wombourne Funeral Services & Monumental Masons
For your nearest branch call 01902 892635
wombournefuneralservices.co.uk
A TRADITION OF TRUST

"We are very pleased with the service offered by the Express & Star. Our business and advertising needs are always well met."
Wombourne Funeral Services.

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

J.T. BROOKES
Independent family run Funeral Directors
24 hour service
Brierley Hill 01384 77098
Kingswinford 01384 296683
Hagley 01562 888041
www.nedowning.co.uk

Christadelphian

THE PROMISES OF GOD - THEIR RELEVANCE TODAY The promise to Abraham, March 11, at 6pm, The Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford, Or write to The Dawn (ref:KCE) 5 Station Road, Carlton, Notts. NG4 3AT for free information pack or ring 01384 886544 for recorded message.

Family ANNOUNCEMENTS
HERE TO SHARE YOUR TODAYS, TOMORROWS AND YESTERDAYS
Whether you're celebrating a special occasion or remembering a loved one - we're here to help.
Just call us on 01902 317878
Our lines are open between 8.30am and 5.30pm Monday to Friday.
Closed Saturdays and Bank Holidays
DAILY DEADLINES
• Before 4.00pm Monday to Friday for the next day's edition.
• Before 4.30pm Friday for Monday.
• Subject to change Bank Holidays
YOU CAN NOW BOOK ONLINE AT BOOKANAD.EXPRESSANDSTAR.CO.UK OR CALL US ON 01902 317878

1 Family

Elderly & Disabled

WORLD OF MOBILITY
Stourbridge's longest established Family Run Mobility Store
Brettell Lane, Amblecote, Stourbridge DY8 4BS. Open Mon-Sat.
01384 378252

MOBILITY SCOOTER, in good condition, nearly new, £275. 01384 237125 or 07518 903674.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

Caravans Wanted

CARAVAN WANTED. Can collect asap. Caravan wanted. Cash paid. Call me on 07717 090817.

All Caravans Wanted
Any Age or Condition
*CASH * WAITING*
Immediate collection
Call Bill on 07825 325 913

LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN/ Motorhome for you and get the best possible price. Severn Valley Leisure, DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

Jumble Sales / Fetes

BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR
Sunday, 11th March
Next Sale: March 25th
KINVER COMMUNITY CENTRE, DY7 6ER
10.30am - 4pm
Tel: 01384 894464

Music Shop

GUITAR AND AMP slightly damaged, £50. 01384 896654.

holidays

Caravan Sales

A CHOICE OF CARAVANS FOR sale from £1995 to £6995, accessory shop, service, repairs,storage. Severn Valley Leisure Stourbridge,DY8 4HP 01384 390183 www.severnvalleyleisure.com

Self Catering Holidays

BURNHAM-ON-SEA
Self Catering Holiday Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

3 Home & Services

Furniture

DOUBLE BED Including mattress. Excellent condition. Will dismantle for removal. Also two bedside units **£350 ono. 07570 479446.**

In Your Garden

LAWN TRACTOR 22 HP, 42" CUT With collector. As new. Unused. **Cost £4,000 will accept £1,995. Can deliver. 07710 169150.**

Items For Sale

CORRUGATED GALVANISED Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also box profile and PVC/polycarb. David Broxton on 07834 489558.

DOUBLE MIRRORED sliding wardrobes, light oak, with spot lights, 6ftL, excellent condition, £170. 07804 140617.

Items Wanted

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/ any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

A BEST CASH PRICE PAID FOR DIE CAST CARS / LORRIES
Britains, Corgi, Dinky, Spot on, Tri-ang, Danbury Mint and Mamod Engines. Best prices paid. Any condition. Collections bought.
Telephone 01922 327897 or 07976 691563.

ALL BRASS/COPPER ornaments/ brassware, all descriptions, miners lamps, old medals, dinky, corgi toys and railways. 01902 745598.

MAMOD STEAM engines/trains wanted.All conditions, railway collections, Scalextric by Tri-ang any condition01902 745598/07984 159571

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, plus any Spectrum 128k+2 computer wanted also any old Crash or your Sinclair Magazines. 01902 892918.

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras. TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

Aerials

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST Digital aerials, CCTV cameras, TV wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"
Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

Alarms/Security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

A BRILLCLEAN FOR YOUR CARPETS & SUITES
Special offers March/April OAP discounts.
Call Steve on 07496 922324

Electrical Services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 846167.

Fencing

CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."
Michael- Portway Fencing

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£695**
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

Gardening Services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

Gas Fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

Handyman Services

LOCAL HANDYMAN Most Trades, Free Quotes, Insured, CRB, C&G, All Areas. Contact Lee 0121 585 8263 or 07891 475718.

House Clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021**

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED
FULL OR PART, GARAGES AND SHEDS RUBBISH REMOVED WASTE LICENCE
01384 486456 / 07711661135

Painters/ Decorators

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painters & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194
www.love-2-wallpaper.co.uk

Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL IAN. Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS
AND HOUSE CLEARANCES
We move anything.
Professional service,
45 years' experience,
DFS approved and we take the stress away.
Please call:
07966 281957

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

Roofing

GRIFFIN ROOFING
All aspects of roofing work undertaken
Fascias, Soffits and Guttering, Roof Conversions and more. OAP Discounts
Free Quotes:
07734 432235 • 0121 4396145

MG ROOFING
Flat Roofing, Tiling, Roof Repairs, Fascias and Gutters.
Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.
www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk

Semi Retired Roofer
ALL ROOF REPAIRS
Felt and Rubber Flat Roofing
All at reasonable prices
07546 158165

Rubbish Removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

Skip Hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 40 years, 01384 232359.

4 Pets & Animals

Pets Corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01902 291080 or visit
www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk
Greyhound Trust Wolverhampton
@gtwolverhampton

KIND HOMES WANTED
Smudge - 15 month old Norfolk Terrier, handsome little lad who needs some TLC.
Lizzie and Bilboe - 16 weeks old Border Collie Cross, lovely little dogs will separate.
Lass - border collie 2 years old, a failed working dog, good with other dogs and children.
Theo - 5 year old Jack Russell, busy little dog, no young children.
01588 676106.
www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

LURCHERS
Ben - typical Lurcher, fawn / white, gentle boy with a lovely temperament, has lived with other dogs.
Call 01743 872395 or
01588 676106.
Jack
Greyhound / Saluki, approx 5 years, good on lead, loves his walks, timid, gentle boy, ideal pet.
01588 638560 /
01588 676106.

6 Property

Accommodation To Let

NETHERTON AREA 3 bed house, DSS welcome, 30 plus, deposit required. 07780 704435.

Express & Star
OVEN CLEANERS!
CLAIM YOUR FREE ADVERT
(T&Cs Apply)
Call Claire Smith: 01902 319661
claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk

Properties Wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!
FAST 4 Your House CASH
You agree the price, we buy the house...
• NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
• FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION
BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
0800 999 999 6
01384 500 500
30 yrs
www.black-countryhomes.co.uk * subject to terms

CASH NOW FOR YOUR HOUSE Wolverhampton properties
UP TO **£25,000** CASH ADVANCE NOW (in 24hrs)
• Free Solicitors • No Fees • Any House • Any Condition
We can buy your house in 2 days
0800 389 6788 01902 628047
Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week
Terms applicable

Yes! HOME BUYERS THE EASY WAY TO SELL YOUR HOUSE
We Buy Houses For Cash
Free Valuation? Yes! No Fees? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
Fast Sale? Yes! Any House? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!
Get your FREE, instant cash offer today!
The Property Ombudsman
Call 01562 277 067
or text "Cash" to 66777 yeshomebuyers.com

We buy houses
Sell your house fast
- avoid repossession
- behind on payments
- job relocation
- unwanted inheritance
What more - we buy in any condition
No estate agent fees
We pay all your legal fees
ACT NOW !
Contact us on :
07796 801219 / 07988 882090

8 Motoring

Cars Over £1500

LOW MILEAGE
CHEVROLET AVEO 1.2
Silver, 2009 plate.
Good clean car inside and out, 15,794 miles.
MoT till September 2018.
Any trial.
£1,250 ono
07787 424281. 01902 238488.

MUST BE SEEN
FORD MONDEO
Black.
2008.
89,000 miles.
MoT September 2018.
Very good condition.
£2,100.
07845 035736.

Cars Over £1500

MAZDA RX8 R3
Superb condition. 37,425 miles. MoT Aug 2018. Metallic red. Part service history. Recaro front seats.
£5,500 ono.
07505 257585.

RENAULT CLIO DCi 2008 58 reg, silver, 5-dr, genuine 34,500 miles, MoT Sep, family owned, very good condition. £2,400 ono. 07866 058342.

VAUXHALL MOKKA
63 plate, MoT Jan 2019, petrol, 28,000 miles, air con, cruise control, parking sensors, Bluetooth USB port. Very good condition. Call or text Jade.
£7,700 ono.
07789 510999.

Cars Under £1500

FORD KA
2005, black, low miles, 59k, full MoT, excellent condition, drives superb.
£595
07821 649276.

JAGUAR X TYPE 2.5
2001, 97,000 miles.
Silver, automatic, recently new brakes all round, new battery, fully serviced, MoT till March.
£600.
01902 739188.

7 SEATER
TOYOTA AVENSIS VERSO 2.0 DIESEL D-4D GLS
MPV 5dr, 02 reg, full MoT, silver, 165k, all electric, folding seats, new turbo, fully serviced, radio CD, £800 spent recently.
£1,295 ono.
07979 784585.

Classic Cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Car. Private cash buyer. Any condition, anything considered.
01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

Scrap Vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

A BETTER PRICE
for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.
NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

Vehicles Wanted

WANTED
CLASSIC CAR
Triumph, MG. Mercedes etc, running or not, anything considered.
Cash paid.
Telephone Ron
07424 399776.

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

spares & accessories

Clutches/Brakes/ Gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
Renault Scenic, Vauxhall Zafira, Renault Clio, Ford Focus & KA and MANY MORE!!
Ring for quotes
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328
07972 169554
anytime

Storage

STORAGE WANTED FOR CLASSIC CARS
No repair work will be carried out.
Just storage.
07960 365268.

9 Local Information

Public Notices

JOAN BOLDOCK
(Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Prestwood Nursing Home Prestwood House Wolverhampton Road Stourbridge West Midlands DY7 5AL formerly of 38 Chapel Street Lye Stourbridge West Midlands DY9 8BX, who died on 15/11/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 11/05/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
WALDRONS SOLICITORS
Capstan House The Waterfront Merry Hill
West Midlands DY5 1XL T523307

ROBERT LOUIS WOOLDRIDGE
(Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of The Shrubbery Nursing Home Birmingham Road Kidderminster Worcestershire DY10 2JZ, who died on 10/11/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 14/05/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
WALL JAMES CHAPPELL
15-23 Hagley Road Stourbridge
West Midlands DY8 1QW T524531

10 Personals

General

COLIN
Calls barred,
Help.
Please reply to
Box Number P21068 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

CREMATION PLOT FOR FOUR
Bushbury Crematorium.
Near the gates.
Current price £1,425.
Would accept **£800 ono.**
07795 363325.

Personal

SWAP NUMBERS with local singles & couples seeking Adult Fun! 01902 489181 / Txt: 07860 021670

MALE 68
Divorced, slimish, likes sports, countryside.
WLTM any race, slim lady, sincere, loyal, for permanent relationship.
Box Number P21099,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton,
WV1 1ES.

Sports Clubs

BRIERLEY HILL BULLETS
Charter Standard Club
Under 11's team requires players.
Please contact Mark on 07802 768514

You should be able to trust the ads you see.

If an ad is wrong, the ASA is here to put it right.

ASA.org.uk

Advertising Standards Authority

REACH MORE CUSTOMERS

Advertise your business on the
NEW LOOK Express & Star website
www.expressandstar.com

To find out how you can benefit call MNA Digital on 01902 319730

MNA DIGITAL

Geoff seen in conversation last March during a special 'Smile for Joel' fundraising event which took place at The Saddlers

Geoff celebrates scoring the second goal against Portsmouth on August 20, 2005, after the Baggies stayed up

During his time at Birmingham City, against Fulham, Geoff with Rufus Brevett

Geoff in 2009, with the famous back page of THAT season, at the Hawthorns

Geoff's on target with charity to help homeless

HIS football career started out playing on the streets – now Geoff Horsfield is helping people get off the streets with his charity venture.

After his retirement the Baggies hero has made it his goal to help those in need across the West Midlands.

His charity the Geoff Horsfield Foundation, which was set up in 2016, provides 'quality, safe and secure supported accommodation' for vulnerable adults in the region.

It marks the latest step in a less than conventional career, which saw Geoff start as a bricklayer and toil in the lower leagues before making it big.

Geoff, now aged 44, also successfully battled testicular cancer in 2008 – defying doctors who predicted the disease would end his career.

The striker was certainly no ordinary footballer.

And after hanging up his boots in 2013, Geoff has continued to prove he is an extraordinary man by focusing on charitable enterprises.

Epidemic

Now he is aiming to help tackle homeless in the West Midlands, and has returned to the bricklaying skills he learned before hitting the footballing big time.

The star personally renovates homes before new tenants – often from the streets – are moved in.

Geoff, who lives in Sutton Coldfield, said: "Homelessness around the country has become an epidemic.

"We're in 2018 and we've got cars that can park themselves but we've still got homeless people in the streets. If we can't help them there's something wrong.

"My aim is to get people off the streets and get them back into normality and normal society. We try to help them as much as possible.

"I thought with my name and the people I know I could help these people, and it's fantastic that people are coming forward and trying to help.

"Football makes the world go round."

The foundation's work also involves providing basic essentials such as food, clothes and sanitary towels for women.

Much of this relies on donations, often from football fans far and wide that put their allegiances to one side.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Steve Jones

'My aim is to get people off the streets and get them back into normality and normal society.'

"The generosity is overwhelming, it's been incredible," Geoff continued.

"There's more going on in the world than the badge on the shirt.

"It's nice that we can forget about the football. They have been absolutely fantastic, all the fans."

Geoff's footballing journey began in modest surroundings in his native Barnsley and he combined his playing with work as a bricklayer – a trade he has returned to through his charity work, renovating accommodation before tenants move in.

Looking back on his earliest footballing memories, Geoff said: "I was playing on the streets. I just naturally scored goals, 10 or 11 a game. I played Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning and it just took off.

"I was bricklaying and playing in the local leagues. My dad took me there to toughen me up a bit.

"All the lads I played with were 10 years older than me and they all had trades and offered me an apprenticeship with them.

"It set me in good stead for later life."

Geoff was Albion's top scorer when the Baggies were promoted to the Premier League at the end of the 2003/4 campaign – and they could probably do with his goals now as they battle relegation.

His career at the club peaked when he scored one of the most famous goals in their history to help preserve their top-flight status on the final day of the 2004/05 season.

"Coming on and scoring that goal, I think that's got to be one of the highlights of my career alongside getting promotion under Gary Megson," he said.

In 2008 Geoff overcame testicular cancer and shortly afterwards resumed his professional career, a testament to his strength of character.

He admits helping the homeless is a million miles away from his career on the pitch.

"It is hugely different, but I wouldn't stop it for the world. I still watch out for my old teams but what I'm doing now is a full-time job," Geoff said.

"It's totally different from football, it makes me realise how lucky I was to be a professional football player."

He also moved to defend his peers, who can be accused of doing little to help others.

Geoff said: "I don't know if that [accusation] is true.

"There are a lot of footballers who do it and don't publicise it. I publicise it to raise awareness of people being homeless.

"I think footballers are tarred with the wrong brush at times, a lot of them do good."

Fundraiser

A charity night which is coming up soon will help raise funds for Geoff's Foundation.

As well as Albion fan and British middleweight champion Tommy Langford, some of Geoff's former Baggies team mates, including Darren Moore and Paul Robinson, are planning to attend the fundraiser.

"We've always kept close, I'll do anything for them and they'll do anything for me," he said.

"We're trying to raise as much money as we can; it really will be a good night."

The event will take place at Birmingham's Botanical Gardens on Friday, March 23. Entertainment includes live music and a DJ, a drag artist, and a comedienne.

Catering will also be provided by award-winning Indian restaurant Itihaas.

An auction taking place on the night includes a match day box at the Hawthorns, worth £4,000.

Tickets are available through online ticketing outlet Eventbrite and are priced at £65 per person plus booking fees, with VIP options also available.

Meanwhile donations can also be made to the Geoff Horsfield Foundation at JustGiving.com.

Back-to-back Sunday games for Baggies

ALBION are scheduled to play back-to-back Sunday games in April after two of their fixtures were moved to be broadcast live on Sky Sports.

The Baggies' trip to Old Trafford to face Manchester United is now at 4pm on Sunday, April 15, while the home game against Liverpool a week later is scheduled for 2.15pm on Sunday, April 22.

However, if Liverpool reach the semi-finals of the Champions League that match may have to be moved again.

Those two games represent the start of a difficult run-in for the Baggies. There will only be 12 points to play for after the United game and nine points available after the Liverpool game.

Meanwhile, Villa's trip to Norwich City on Saturday April 7 has been moved forward – just 24 hours after being moved back. Sky had moved the game from 3pm to a 5.30pm kick-off. However, it has now been rescheduled again and will kick-off at 12.30pm. The decision was made to accommodate Manchester City versus Manchester United at 5.30pm.

Deals hampered by sell-on clause – Troy

EX-WALSALL forward Troy Deeney admits the sell-on clause negotiated by Saddlers when he joined Watford has become a transfer 'sticking point'.

The 29-year-old striker was a £16million target for Albion in January, before the Baggies opted to sign Daniel Sturridge on loan from Liverpool.

Walsall would receive 20 per cent of any profit above the £500,000 they sold Deeney to the Hornets for in 2010 – and the forward believes it has put potential suitors off.

"There's times where it has become a sticking point," said Deeney. "People go like 'We're going to pay X amount of money' but then Watford say 'We've got to give X amount to Walsall'. There's been times where I've tried to speak to (Saddlers chairman) Jeff Bonser and try to, you know, be sensible.

"But I understand a million per cent from his point of view, he's like 'We asked for this, this is what we're getting'. It's just business at the end of the day but I think that ship is long sailed now."

Online service just the ticket for fans

WOLVERHAMPTON Speedway have launched a new online ticket service for supporters ahead of the 2018 season. Supporters can now purchase tickets for home meetings in advance using wolverhamptonspeedway.co/boxoffice

The service is operated in conjunction with ticketarena.co.uk

The move gives fans added convenience and will speed entry up on arrival at the turnstiles as the Parrys International Wolves battle for SGB Premiership glory. Opening night at Monmore is on Monday March 26 against a powerhouse Poole side.

Press and practice is open to the public from 6.30 on Monday March 19 with the popular pre-season talk-in at the Cleveland Arms the following night.

Club legends Peter Karlsson and Mikael Max were set to fly in from Sweden for a special 'Wolves Brothers' show at the Cleveland Arms on Sunday, but have rescheduled for July 19.

Sport

Former Baggies ace on target to help homeless

Page 39

Throwers toe oche for FA Cup of darts

BLACK Country darts player Jamie Hughes bowed out of the UK Open at the fourth-round stage.

Tipton ace Hughes averaged 95 in his first PDC major tournament since switching from rival organisation the BDO.

'Yozza' pushed Ian White, but the Stoke thrower squeezed through to reach the last 16 at Butlin's, Minehead.

Jason Lowe, from Cradley Heath, enjoyed an excellent qualifying campaign in Wigan two weeks ago, meaning he came up against John Scott in the second round.

A crucial 116 finish in the fifth leg of the match broke the Scott throw and put Lowe on the way to confirming his place in the last 32 of the 'FA Cup of darts'. But he then fell 10-5 to Chris Dobey.

'Flying Scotsman' Gary Anderson won the tournament, beating Australian Corey Cadby in Sunday's final.

Joining the 96 professionals for the three-day tournament were 32 wildcards made up of qualifiers from Riley's Sports bars, including four from the chain's Wolverhampton venue.

John Morris, of Wolverhampton, bowed out in the opening round to former world champion John Part, while Dudley's Liam Kelly also fell at the first hurdle, 6-0 to Liam Humphries, who then knocked out Wednesfield's Wayne Jones.

Mark Craddock of Cannock, and Andrew Pullen, both made the second round, beaten by Ryan Meikle and Nathan Aspinall respectively.

First defeat for Stourbridge opens up indoor league

STOURBRIDGE lost to Oldswinford in the final over to end their unbeaten start to the WCB Indoor Cricket League.

Runs were hard to find as Stourbridge, batting first, totalled 87-4 with Matt Bradley hitting 39 and Scott Ludlam 25.

Oldswinford lost two wickets in the first three overs for just 16. A tight finish looked in store until Paddy Addis (28 no) joined Matt Watts (35 no) and the former hit the winning runs in the 12th over.

In the other game, Pedmore (131-5) lost to Coombes Wood (132-2) with an over remaining.

Pedmore started positively and lost a wicket to a run out on 37. John Hurdman (27) joined Paul Taylor (41 no) and a large total looked likely. With Taylor's retirement they lost John Wenham but Matt Porter scored an enterprising 22. Taylor re-entered the fray and pushed up the total.

In reply, Coombes Wood went after the bowling with Carl Whyte 28 no and Dan Jones 26 no. After they retired, Pedmore were unable to stem the flow of runs, and, with a quickfire Mike Langford 20, Coombes Wood won within 11 overs.

New car has race ace Neal purring

Matt Neal's new motor

STOURBRIDGE racer Matt Neal says he cannot wait to get behind the wheel of his new Halford Yuasa Honda Civic Type R for the start of the British Touring Car Championship.

The covers were lifted on Neal's Type R at Parcmotor Castellolí, just outside Barcelona.

It will be subjected to a near week-long test at the circuit, with the latest generation Civic Type R (FK8) set to be shaken down and thoroughly evaluated ahead of the 2018 Dunlop MSA British Touring Car Championship.

Triple BTCC champion Neal and new signing Dan Cammish are scheduled to get their first taste of the car in Spain, before heading home to Brands Hatch and Donington Park for further track-time and development.

The team will unveil the 2018 livery at their brand-new factory on March 22.

The championship's official season launch event will take place at Donington Park, on March 27. The opening rounds commence at Brands Hatch on April 7 and 8.

Neal, from Stourbridge, said: "I can't wait to jump in and get out on track. If the car goes as fast as it looks then we'll be in great shape."

ASHFIELD HAS TITLE IN SIGHTS

A MOVE into the bigger bike classes has worked wonders for Kinver racer Chris Ashfield who has set his sights on a winning a first club title.

The 24-year-old, who will be back competing in the Mini Twins class, aims to improve on his third place finish last year to claim the number one spot at the East Midlands Racing Association (EMRA) championships.

The Mechanical Engineering student, who juggles studying at Cardiff University with racing at Mallory Park in Leicestershire, says his dream has always been to be a professional racer.

"I've been racing motorcycle now for four years at this level and I originally started in the CB500 class," said Ashfield.

Massive

"But before this I rode mini motos from around the age of 13 onward until I gained a road bike when I was 17.

"I'm the first racer in my family but dad is a massive bike nut and has been riding since a very early age himself.

"He still rides at the age of 60 and is the one that really got me into racing."

Ashfield, who counts Valentino Rossi, the late Marco Simoncelli, Michael Dunlop and Brieley Hill-born Michael Rutter as his racing heroes, will be running the same Suzuki SV650 he rode to third last year.

However, the 2018 the bike will have a new exhaust system and the front suspension has been upgraded along with modifications to the wiring loom, to increase reliability.

He believes the new combination will be enough to claim the championship this year having set the fastest lap of the season in 2017.

"The bike's electronics let us down a couple of times as it was fairly untested but at the end of last year it proved itself reliable, so I have high hopes," he said. "Last year was my fourth season racing but it was a brand new class for me.

"In the CB500 class my best finish was ninth but moving to the bigger class was the best decision we made as the larger machine with more power was more suited to my riding style.

"I instantly clicked with the machine but even still, third in the championship was a surprise as I never expected to do so well with my first season in that class.

"I've spent a lot of time training over the off season, building my endurance level and losing a few kilos. I feel the combination of the bike being the best it's ever been and me being the fittest I've ever been will be a winning formula for 2018.

"I haven't been able to do much pre-season yet because of exams but I will be taking the bike out for it's first real shake down on Friday."

The new EMRA race seasons launches with round one on Sunday at Mallory Park. To sponsor Ashfield email christopherashfieldracing@gmail.com

Ashfield finished third last year during his first season in the Mini Twins class

Cycle legend Porter backs velodrome

CYCLING legend Hugh Porter MBE has backed a campaign to build a velodrome in the West Midlands ahead of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

The region does not possess an indoor banked race track and there are fears the Games' cycling events could be held 130 miles away in London.

It has prompted Halesowen & Rowley Regis MP James Morris to launch a cross-party campaign with support from 13 West Midlands MPs calling for a new cycling venue.

Wolverhampton-born Mr Porter, who won Commonwealth track gold in 1966, said: "I definitely support the campaign. I would like to see a velodrome built to host Commonwealth cycling.

"I am delighted Birmingham was awarded the Games but I think if we are going to promote the Games, we should be able to provide the facilities."

Mr Porter, aged 78, won four world titles in the individual pursuit. He is also patron of Halesowen Cycling and Athletic Club.

The club's 70-year-old outdoor track off Manor Way received praise from Mr Morris. But the Conservative MP added the region was in urgent need of a modern indoor track.

He has written to the chief executive officer of British Cycling, Julie Harrington, outlining his concerns. The letter was backed by 13 West Midlands MPs including Dudley representatives Ian Austin and Mike Wood and Wolverhampton North East MP Emma Reynolds.

Chess club reaches Terrill Trophy final

STOURBRIDGE Chess Club beat Birmingham University in a rearranged last four tie to reach the final of the Terrill Trophy on Tuesday night.

The Birmingham & District League division two side will face first division West Brom on week commencing April 9 at a neutral venue to be decided.

With the university team in division 3, a handicap system meant the students started with a 1½ point advantage.

But, thanks to wins for Zibby Koncki, Dave Scriven, Julie Wilson and Eric Horwill, Stourbridge won by the required 4-2 over the boards, 4½-3½ on handicap, to reach the final.

★★★

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
The recycled content of newspapers in 2015 was 62.8%

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford.
Thursday, March 8, 2018

Domino's® 01384 374666
Stourbridge Industrial Estate,
Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge DY8 1JN
Opening Hours: 11am to 11pm Sunday-Thursday
11am to Midnight Friday and Saturday